



Daily Report

Near East & South Asia

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Inter-Arab Affairs

Arab Leaders Hold 'Intensive Consultations'

NC2206121390 Cairo MENA in English 1107 GMT
22 Jun 90

[Text] Abu Dhabi, June 22—(MENA)—Intensive consultations took place within the last few hours among a number of Arab capitals, AL-ITTIHAD newspaper said today. The consultations focused on calling upon the U.N. General Assembly to hold a special session at the U.N. European seat, in Geneva, to discuss the recent developments in the Middle East and the collapse of peace efforts following the U.S. decision to suspend the dialogue with the Palestine Liberation Organization (PLO), the paper added.

AL-ITTIHAD quoted informed Arab sources in Amman as saying that King Husayn of Jordan and President Saddam Husayn of Iraq have discussed this issue thoroughly yesterday, Thursday, in Baghdad. Meanwhile, Palestinian leaders have conferred with Chedli Klibi, secretary general of the Arab League, on the same issue.

Arab League To Discuss Dialogue Suspension

JN2506153090 Manama WAKH in Arabic 1440 GMT
25 Jun 90

[Text] Tunis, 25 Jun (WAKH)—Arab League sources today announced that the Arab League Council will hold an emergency session Wednesday [27 June] night at the request of the PLO.

The Council will discuss adopting a unified Arab position on the U.S. decision to suspend dialogue with the PLO and measures to counter the new Israeli Government's plan to escalate repression and killing against the Palestinians with the aim of crushing the Palestinian intifadah.

UMA Foreign Ministers Begin Meeting in Tunis

Tunisia's Khelil Speaks

LD2306134790 Tunis Domestic Service in Arabic
1200 GMT 23 Jun 90

[Excerpts] The meetings of the Arab Maghreb Union [UMA] foreign ministers' council started this morning in Tunis to assess the march of the union and the view the situation prevailing in the Maghrebi and Arab scenes. Correspondent of the news department, Abdelmajid Mrahihi, follows up the subject:

[Mrahihi] This meeting is devoted essentially to assess the march of Maghrebi edification and to view the situation prevailing in the Maghrebi and Arab scenes.

Mr. Ismail Khelil, the foreign minister, opened the meeting with a speech in which he said: We record with pride the positive outcome of unionist action which recently witnessed remarkable progress and intensified efforts in all the capitals of the union to implement the

programs which had been decided and to lay the right foundations for our joint action in conformity with the desires of our leaders and the aspirations of our brother peoples who strive for more complementarity, union, and integration within a border-free Arab Maghreb. [passage omitted]

The ministerial committee in charge of economy and finance focused on the ways of consolidating Maghrebi cooperation in this vital field. A skeleton agreement was prepared to progressively lay the foundations of a Maghrebi customs' union. Projects related to ensuring investments were also prepared; practical measures appropriate for achieving high proportions of Maghrebi industrial integration were adopted, and practical ideas were submitted to contribute to solving the problem of indebtedness which weighs heavily on our economic and development budgets. It also preoccupies the [UMA] presidential council due to its negative reflections on the general economic situation. [passage omitted]

Algiers Summit Scheduled

LD2406061290 Rabat RTM Television Network
in Arabic 2100 GMT 23 Jun 90

[Excerpts] The Arab Maghreb Union [UMA] Foreign Ministers Council held a meeting in Tunis within the framework of its third ordinary session. The meeting discussed UMA edification, future steps, and the definition of the broad lines of Maghrebi economic integration within the framework of balanced relations with European economic groups. The meeting also prepared for the forthcoming UMA summit due to meet in Algeria beginning 21 July 1990. [passage omitted]

With regard to the date of the UMA Summit to be held in Algiers, the Tunisian foreign minister stated that the forthcoming summit will be held 21-23 July, 1990.

Bendjedid Receives Nonaligned Foreign Ministers

LD2606021190 Algiers Domestic Service in Arabic
2200 GMT 25 Jun 90

[Text] The president of the Republic, Chadli Bendjedid, today at the presidential headquarters received the foreign ministers who took part in the work of the 3d ministerial session of the Mediterranean Nonaligned countries, being held in Algiers.

During this meeting, the president of the Republic made a broad assessment of the major changes that are taking place across the world and their reflections on the Third World and Nonaligned countries, especially the littoral Mediterranean states.

After affirming the positive role of the Nonaligned Movement in developing international relations and establishing the dynamism of real peace, he called for the need to deepen the thoughts of the major aims of the movement in light of the changes that have taken place in the international arena, and (raising) the programs of the movement to the level of the major challenges.

The head of state touched on the (re)establishment of the Arab Maghreb and the role this Arab and African grouping will be playing in the Maghreb, the Mediterranean, and in strengthening relations with Europe in various fields. On the other hand, the president of the Republic gave his guests some details on the Algerian experience in the field of reform, including the democratic road that the country has embarked upon, noting Algeria's decisive commitment to the genuine implementation of democracy along with respect for the rule of law.

In conclusion, the Yugoslav minister of foreign affairs, on behalf of all the ministers, expressed thanks to the president of the Republic for taking the initiative and organizing the 3d Ministerial Session in circumstances characterised by the rise of the Nonaligned Movement as an effective element in international relations. He also wished complete success for the democratic experiment in Algeria.

ARABSAT Accord Grants Saudi Arabia Channel

LD2206223590 Rabat MAP in English 1354 GMT
22 Jun 90

[Text] Jeddah, Jun 22 (MAP)—The Arab Organisation of Communications Via Satellite (ARABSAT) [name as received] and the Saudi Information Ministry signed Wednesday here an accord on exploiting an ARABSAT channel for cultural, educational and Islamic purposes.

The accord, which provides for the hiring and exploiting of an ARABSAT wide array channel, will enable Saudi Arabia to air and broadcast radio and tv cultural and Islamic programmes to all Arabsat Islamic member countries.

The accord, signed by the ARABSAT Director General Bayri 'Abd-al-Qadir and Saudi Information Minister 'Ali Hasan al-Sha'ir, aims at consolidating information cooperation between the Saudi Kingdom and the Arab and Islamic countries.

Palestinian Affairs

Official Says PLO To Halt U.S. Contacts

JN2506182990 Amman SAWT AL-SHA'B in Arabic
25 Jun 90 Second Edition p 3

[Interview with Yasir 'Abd-Rabbuh, PLO Executive Committee member, by Fayruz Mubayyidin in Amman on 24 June]

[Text] [Mubayyidin] What measures will the PLO take to reply to the United States' decision to halt the U.S.-Palestinian dialogue?

['Abd-Rabbuh] The Palestinian leadership has decided to stop all contacts, inside and outside [the occupied territories], with envoys of the U.S. Administration. At the emergency meeting of the foreign ministers to be held in Tunisia on 27 June, it will ask Arab countries to adopt measures to support the Palestinian position that go beyond condemnatory statements. With this decision,

the United States has launched an all-out political battle against the PLO and the Baghdad summit resolutions in order to render the Palestinians and Arabs docile in the face of the conditions of the new Shamir government.

All the excuses and pretexts used by Washington are merely a cover-up for its real intentions.

[Mubayyidin] Is there any intention now, after this decision, to abandon or halt the Palestinian peace initiative?

['Abd-Rabbuh] For our part, we will not relinquish the peace initiative, which was based on the resolutions of our National Council. In any event, we will not abandon our struggle for a just solution that guarantees our people's right to self-determination and repatriation and the establishment of the independent state. This solution should be achieved through an international peace conference, because this is the only appropriate formula that can achieve this solution.

This is the essence of the Palestinian peace initiative. All our policies and actions have been directed toward this objective.

Today, Israel and Washington are planning to revive the Camp David plan, particularly the part concerning Palestine. The Palestinian peace initiative, however, is the antithesis of Camp David. That is why we urged the Arabs at the Baghdad summit to adopt the Palestinian initiative in full, and this is what happened.

We will not lose the direction of our policies and stands. The policy of Washington and Tel Aviv now aims at gradually isolating the PLO and searching for Arab and Palestinian partners, in accordance with the Camp David formula. What happened during the past year and a half, in fact, is that the PLO's policy, which is based on the struggle of the intifadah, has isolated and exposed the aims of Washington and Tel Aviv. This is what led them recently to fully reveal their true intentions, which have been exposed before the entire world. They do not want the international conference. They do not want to implement the UN and Security Council international resolutions. Moreover, they refuse to recognize the Palestinian people's existence.

They are now proposing a comprehensive project based on smothering our people's rights within the context of autonomous rule and not negotiating with Palestinians unless they accept this formula in advance. They are also proposing giving priority to dealing with Arab countries—which means the total surrender of all Arabs.

[Mubayyidin] Do you expect any imminent Israeli attack, with the help of the United States, on any Arab location, especially the confrontation states?

['Abd-Rabbuh] Everything happening now confirms that we face a fiercer confrontation with the U.S.-Israeli scheme. This does not require Arab words of solidarity, denunciation, and regret toward Washington's decisions. On the contrary, it demands diligent action to implement the Baghdad summit resolutions and to deal with

all countries, especially the United States, on the basis of its hostility toward Palestinian and Arab rights, which provides full support for the Shamir government's scheme, which aims at suppressing the intifadah, eliminating the PLO, imposing occupation, and expanding settlement and Jewish emigration in the territory of our homeland.

Therefore, the decision has been made to mobilize all Palestinian forces inside and outside and in all the positions of struggle to confront the Washington-Tel Aviv conspiracy.

The soft language used by some U.S. parties after the decision to suspend the dialogue, and the rumors about entrusting a third party to contact the PLO—either an Arab or foreign party—is intended as a sedative to confuse the Arab situation and weaken European reactions, while Washington continues its attempts to besiege and circumvent the intifadah and the PLO.

We will call on popular Arab forces to take practical measures against U.S. interests. This is the duty of all Arab countries. What we are witnessing today is a prelude to a new war that primarily targets the Arab confrontation states. These events are setting the political scene for this war that originally started against the intifadah, through the escalation of the daily suppression and killing inside our occupied land.

[Mubayyidin] In this context, will the organization call for an emergency Arab summit conference, or any other high-level conference?

[Abd-Rabbuh] What is happening requires a high degree of coordination and understanding among Arab countries on every level. Hence, we are sticking firmly to the urgent call for a meeting of the Joint Arab Defense Council and another meeting for foreign and economy ministers. This is so that the required measures can be decided in accordance with the principle of reciprocity in dealing with the countries that are hostile to the interests of the Palestinian people and the Arab nation.

[Mubayyidin] Do you think the measures taken by the United States and Israel will have a negative effect on or put an end to Palestinian militant action?

[Abd-Rabbuh] We have not pledged and we will not pledge to end all forms of struggle against Israel and the occupation institutions as long as our people are deprived of their right to independence and freedom. The Palestinian peace initiative, which rejected terrorist acts against civilian targets, also emphasized our legitimate right to resist with all political, popular, and armed means, and this is a right guaranteed to all peoples under occupation.

We are acting on the basis that the present stage is one of confrontation to protect and safeguard the intifadah and the PLO's gains against U.S.-Israeli plans to strike at these gains. Priority now goes to backing the intifadah with all Palestinian capabilities inside and outside the

occupied territories, in addition to mobilizing Arab and international efforts in this direction.

[Mubayyidin] Now that the Palestinian-U.S. dialogue has been cut off, it seems that hopes to persuade the United States to abandon its negative position on the Palestine question have reached a dead end. Will the organization embark on more effective methods to help it achieve just and comprehensive solutions?

[Abd-Rabbuh] The organization will now work intensively to approach the Soviet Union and European countries to make them take urgent measures primarily to stop Jewish emigration from the Soviet Union and Europe to the occupied territories.

The United States tried in the past to deceive some parties in our region by claiming that it was ready to adopt a neutral or balanced posture, but its recent decision exposes that lie.

Therefore, the suspension of the political process after the U.S. decision and Shamir's declaration of his government's large-scale settlement intentions are sufficient justification for the entire world, as well as Moscow, to stop this emigration. This is what President Gorbachev said during his recent visit to Washington. Moreover, this U.S. policy, which is playing with fire and which considers international circumstances propitious for imposing its hegemony over our region, poses a great danger to Europe and its interests. Therefore, we intend to hold urgent consultations with Europe and the Soviet Union to coordinate efforts for pushing ahead preparations for an international conference. This is the role Europe must play to diminish the danger of an explosion in our region.

We will also ask the UN Security Council once again to provide protection to our people in the occupied territories. If we again collide with the U.S. veto, we will call for an emergency UN General Assembly session under the slogan "unity for peace." This will enable the General Assembly to adopt a binding decision protecting our people and imposing international penalties on Israel for rejecting the UN resolutions.

'Arafat Comments on U.S. Suspension of Dialogue
JN2506205090 Manama WAKH in Arabic 2030 GMT
25 Jun 90

[Text] United Nations, 25 Jun (WAKH)—Yasir 'Arafat, president of the state of Palestine, has restated that the United States bears the responsibility for increasing tension in the Arab region.

In a message read on his behalf by Zuhdi al-Tarazi, the Palestine observer at the United Nations, addressing an international seminar that opened here today, President 'Arafat said the U.S. decision to suspend the dialogue with the PLO has increased tension in the Middle East and has

encouraged extremists in Israel. He added that the Palestinian people will pursue the struggle in their quest for liberty and an independent state under the PLO banner.

President 'Arafat said the new Israeli Government's program is one of war and is a threat to peace and security in the region. This program, he added, is also hostile to international legality, the international community's resolutions, and the Palestinian people's legitimate rights.

The international seminar on the Palestine question began here today under the slogan "Peace and Justice for the Palestinian People." Participating in the seminar, which is organized by the international committee for the Palestinian people's exercise of their inalienable rights, are Palestinian and international personalities. The two-day seminar will discuss the PLO's role in the economic, social, and cultural situation of the Palestinian people and the results of the Palestinian intifadah against occupation, in addition to the prospects for an international peace conference.

'Intervention' To Restore U.S. Dialogue Welcomed

JN2506131590 Paris Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic
1200 GMT 25 Jun 90

[Text] The PLO has said that it welcomes intervention by Britain or any other party to convince the United States to restore the dialogue. This was announced by 'Abdallah Hurani, PLO Executive Committee member, while commenting on reports regarding the possibility of British Foreign Secretary Douglas Hurd's contacting the PLO during the period of the suspension of the U.S.-Palestinian dialogue.

Hurani added that the PLO Central Council will be called into session after the 'Id al-Adha, which falls on 2 July, in order to study Washington's decision to suspend the dialogue.

Hurani stressed that the PLO will not renege on its peace initiative, because the initiative was not undertaken as a tactical move or to convince or appease anyone, but as a strategic initiative that emanated from the intifadah in the occupied Palestinian territories, and was adopted by the National Council in its session in Algeria in 1988.

Hawatimah Urges Review of U.S. Economic Ties

JN2506125490 Baghdad INA in English 1155 GMT
25 Jun 90

[Text] Tunis, June 25, INA—Mr. Nayid Hawatimah secretary of Democratic Front for Liberation of Palestine has called on the Arab countries to implement the Baghdad summit resolutions pertaining to offering financial and political support to the intifadah and to reconsider the Arab trade and economic policy with Washington biased to the Zionist entity. [sentence as received]

Mr. Hawatimah confirmed the necessity of holding a meeting to the Palestinian national council to review the PLO policy and the Palestinian national conference.

Mr. Hawatimah asked the big powers to live up to their responsibilities by pressing the U.S. Administration to respond to the international will for holding the peace conference and placing the Palestinian territories under supervision of the U.N.

On the U.S. decision on suspending dialogue with the PLO, Mr. Hawatimah said that this decision would never weaken the PLO role in achieving peace and lessen its international status.

He further added that the PLO had submitted the peace initiative, responded to all resolutions adopted by Security Council and the international community searching for balanced peace and flexibly dealt with all international peace initiatives and calls, but Shamir government and the U.S. Administration had deadlocked the peace process.

'Arafat Receives Message From British Government

JN2506195190 Baghdad Voice of the PLO in Arabic
1830 GMT 25 Jun 90

[Text] Brother Leader Abu-'Ammar [Yasir 'Arafat] received at his place of residence this afternoon the British ambassador in Baghdad, who conveyed to brother leader Abu-'Ammar a message from the British Government. Our radio's correspondent has learned that the message deals with recent developments in the Palestine question.

The meeting, which was attended by brother 'Azzam al-Ahmad, ambassador of the state of Palestine to fraternal Iraq, centered on around major developments in the Palestine question.

Journalists in Secret Talks With Israeli Figures

PM2606083090 London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT
in Arabic 22 Jun 90 p 2

[Mahmud Ka'ush report: "Secret Meetings Between Palestinian and Israeli Figures Under PLO Auspices in Greece"]

[Excerpts] Athens, AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT—Greece has hosted a series of secret Palestinian-Israeli meetings. The participants chose a Greek island as a venue for their meetings. [passage omitted]

According to the information which AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT obtained from the participants' circles, the meetings have been held in response to the wish of a U.S. organization calling itself "Coiter" [as transliterated], whose interests include peace in the Middle East. It has also been learned that leading PLO figures are sponsoring the dialogue on the Greek Island of Santorini.

The Palestinians participating in these meetings, held for the first time on Greek Territory, are Radwan Abu-'Ayyash, leading writers and journalists in the occupied

territories; Jamil Hilal, of the PLO Information Department; Faysal Hurani, information counselor at the PLO bureau in Vienna; Ziyad Abu-Ziyad, chief editor of the newspaper AL-QUDS published in the occupied territories; Bashir al-Barghuthi, owner of the newspaper AL-TALI'AH; and Lamis Andoni, who lives in Amman and works for a number of Jordanian newspapers.

AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT has learned that the dialogue between the Palestinian and Israeli sides in these meetings will focus on four major points: a discussion of the fate of the U.S.-Palestinian dialogue after its suspension by President George Bush; a discussion of the possibility of initiating a Palestinian-Israeli dialogue, taking account of the emergence of the new Israeli Government under Yitzhaq Shamir and the threats surrounding peace in the region; a discussion of regional and international developments and the new factors resulting from the winds of change in international politics and their effects on the peace process in the Middle East; and a discussion of the terrorism issue.

A high-ranking Palestinian official has told AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT that the PLO has no information about the dialogue now taking place between Palestinian and Israeli journalists in Greece.

The Palestinian official added that a similar dialogue has taken place in the past in several European countries, but the decisions taken by the two sides at previous meetings were not binding on the PLO, because Israel has always rejected any form of dialogue.

PLO To Issue 'Moderate' Statement on Sea Raid

JN2606090690 Kuwait AL-ANBA in Arabic
25 Jun 90 p 1

[By Fatimah Mansur]

[Text] Informed Palestinian sources have revealed to AL-ANBA that the PLO, after lengthy consultations among Palestinian leaders on the U.S. decision to suspend the Palestinian-U.S. dialogue, is inclined to issue a moderate statement that would satisfy the United States, but at the same time fall short of denouncing the fedayeen landing operation [of 30 May] off the coast of Tel Aviv.

In a related development, Arab sources privy to the Egyptian-U.S. consultations conducted recently by telephone between Presidents Husni Mubarak and George Bush affirmed that these consultations resulted in sending Egyptian Foreign Minister 'Ismat 'Abd-al-Majid to New York to reach an agreement with the U.S. Administration on how the United States can back down from its decision to suspend the dialogue.

The sources pointed out that the Egyptian side informed the U.S. side that this decision does not serve the peace process and that it would create further tension in the region—tension that might engender war—particularly considering that this U.S. decision is viewed as one directed not only against the peace process and the PLO,

but also against the Arabs as a whole, and also that this would result in the adoption of a unified negative Arab stance toward the United States.

The sources revealed that President Mubarak asked President Bush to reconsider the U.S. Administration's position on the Palestinian-U.S. dialogue and to agree on a specific formula that would appear in a PLO statement—a formula that would satisfy both parties and at the same time would not embarrass either of them.

The sources said that intensive Arab contacts are currently under way to influence the U.S. position, noting that a unified Arab position vis-a-vis the United States regarding Arab-U.S. economic ties will be taken if the Egyptian efforts fail to yield positive results in this regard.

Khalaf Views Summit, Dialogue, PLO Policy

PM2106162190 London AL-HAWADITH in Arabic
22 Jun 90 pp 36-37

[Interview with Fatah Central Committee member Salah Khalaf, identified by his nom de guerre Abu-Iyad, by Mazin al-Saghir in Tunis; date not given]

[Text] [AL-HAWADITH] How does the PLO assess the Baghdad Arab summit resolutions?

[Abu-Iyad] I believe the summit conference achieved its objectives in terms of pinpointing the challenges facing the Arab nation, such as the U.S. challenge, which poses a threat to Iraq, Libya, and certain Arab interests; or the challenge of the fact that the Americans have put no pressure, strong or slight, on Israel in favor of a political settlement—this in addition to the U.S. and Israeli attempts to weaken the Arab nation and deny the Arabs any opportunity to build their combat and military capabilities, to ensure that they are incapable of meeting the various challenges. I believe that, from that angle, the summit has fully achieved its objectives. It also tackled such issues as the intifadah and the Palestinian peace initiative and the obstacles standing in its way. I believe that the conference fulfilled its objectives in that respect. We would have liked Syria and Lebanon to participate. What is important now is that the conference results should not lead to Arab blocs, because the emergence of such blocs after that conference would divide the region once more and pave the way for conflicts, regardless of whether such blocs are formed openly or secretly. One of the positive points was the Arab leaders' decision to meet annually on specific dates.

[AL-HAWADITH] You were the ones who called for that summit. To what extent did it respond to the purpose of that call?

[Abu-Iyad] If the summit resolutions are implemented, I believe that it will be a great success for all the Arabs. Brother Mu'ammarr al-Qadhafi, who always took a pessimistic view of Arab summit conferences, gave this summit one point above zero, which is a good thing.

[AL-HAWADITH] What are the consequences of Syria's absence from that conference, and what effect has that had on Palestinian-Syrian relations?

[Abu-Iyad] Syria is an Arab country which has borders and a conflict with Israel. We needed the Syrian presence at that summit. Regardless of the reasons which prevented Syria from attending, I believe that Syrian presence would have been possible if more sincere Arab efforts had been made. Anyway, this was not the last conference, and we now have time to iron out the obstacles before the next summit. The elimination of obstacles and Iraqi-Syrian reconciliation are not a personal matter between Presidents Saddam and al-Assad, nor are they a matter of whims. It is in the Arab nation's interest that all should stand united, especially as the political climate does not allow discord. We should make every effort to mend Iraqi-Syrian relations and Iraqi-Iranian relations. If the Iraq-Iran war lasted eight years and current efforts are aimed at eliminating its consequences, there is even more reason to make efforts in the interest of Iraqi-Syrian relations.

As regards our relations with Syria, we actually had no intention of isolating Syria or being a party to a plan to isolate it, and I do not think that hosting the summit conference Iraq meant to isolate Syria. I do not believe that the Baghdad summit has had any adverse effect on our reconciliation, or the beginning of our reconciliation, or meetings with it.

[AL-HAWADITH] A few days ago a Palestinian commando operation was carried out on the beaches of Tel Aviv. Was that a sign of a new phase of Palestinian action, or was it an individual act by a single Palestinian organization?

[Abu-Iyad] I do not want to discuss the operation itself but I do want to discuss the principle over which the Americans have raised such a clamor, namely the principle of armed struggle and the question of linking armed struggle to terrorism. The meetings between the U.S. ambassador and the Palestinian delegation were all devoted to explanation of the U.S. view of terrorism and the PLO's view of terrorism. Not one phrase was used in the dialogue or the talks to indicate armed struggle falls under the category of terrorism. The Americans do not agree. That is quite clear. Regardless of the scale of operations, how could we give up the armed revolution? How could we say that the armed struggle was over just because we have had a dialogue with the United States? On the question of the Abu-al-'Abbas operation, what really infuriated me was the link made between the operation and terrorism and subsequently the claim that the PLO has reneged or that it lacks credibility on the question of terrorism. Who says so?

That is how I view the matter. As for the operation itself and its timing, I do not wish to discuss that now. It will be discussed by the Palestinian leadership.

[AL-HAWADITH] After the operation, Washington threatened to discontinue the dialogue with the PLO.

How worried are you about suspension of the dialogue, and what would your reaction be?

[Abu-Iyad] There can be no doubt that we and our friends made considerable efforts to promote a dialogue with the Americans or build relations with the United States. Regrettably, however, and despite the high price paid by the PLO for that dialogue in responding to all U.S. conditions on recognition of Israel and acceptance of Resolutions 242 and 338 plus Reagan's added provision on terrorism—although we accepted these terms for the sake of relations with the United States, not just a dialogue which we engaged in, as any organization responsible for its people would—the result was only a minor, irregular, and mostly indirect dialogue held through Cairo. Even the direct meetings held here in Tunis in the framework of that minor dialogue were often interrupted. Worse still, whenever a Palestinian operation was carried out there was uproar about the dialogue and calls for its suspension. The U.S. Administration and the State Department were requested to submit a report every three months about the PLO activities and statements made by its leaders, as if we were children playing in the streets, and as if they had to approve of our statements and even of the food we ate. Despite all that, we agreed. While the United States was having a dialogue with us, it, more than once, used its veto against our people's rights and against condemnation of Israeli practices in the occupied territory, but we remained silent. The night the United States agreed in Geneva to a commission of inquiry, we were informed of the agreement through an Arab party. After Abu-'Ammar [Yasir 'Arafat] went there and made his speech, however, he discovered that the United States had used its veto and backtracked. What does that mean? While that dialogue was going on, the emigration of Soviet Jews was taking place and there was a U.S. deal on that emigration. I say deal, and I insist on the word deal.

All that happened while the dialogue was going on. Then came the Baker plan, which we accepted on certain conditions. We made concessions and accommodations in favor of that plan, and we said that we accepted the plan on the basis of the known principles. The Israeli answer was negative; even though the Labor Party's answer was perhaps more positive than Likud's, it was still insufficient and negative. What did the United States do? It hid behind the pretext of a shaky government situation in Israel—the side which did not accept the Baker plan and to which the United States said nothing. We say that we are interested in dialogue without histrionics or threats because the days of heroics are over, but at the same time there is our people's dignity. As I said before, we will not cry and we will not shed tears whether the dialogue is maintained or severed, because we really did not gain anything from it. I say that the United States will sever relations with the PLO sooner or later because, with the Zionist lobby active in the United States, there is no hope that Washington would take a firm and impartial stand. The U.S. position is completely partial toward Israel. We Arabs must

understand that and reconsider our calculations on that basis. There is no use in a dialogue that is subject to suspension and blackmail all the time.

I say that I do not want the dialogue to end and I would not welcome that, but if they discontinued it we would not be sorry because they would be freeing us of many humiliating things which we have performed during the dialogue.

[AL-HAWADITH] Does what you say mean that a new Palestinian approach is contemplated and that the Palestinian peace approach and peace initiative may be reconsidered?

[Abu-Iyad] No. I say that we adhere to the peace initiative. We made that initiative not for the sake of Israel or the United States, but for the sake of our people. We are convinced of it. We will not say that the initiative was for the United States or Israel. It was for our people and for world public opinion, so that the latter may realize the truth about the Israeli position. True, we have not made any progress; this makes us reconsider our methods but not our aim. Our aim is still the same. We want an independent Palestinian state, but our methods must change with an eye on the Arab dimension because we cannot move without that and without Arab backing. That is the value of the Baghdad Arab summit and future summits. If the Arab dimension does not move with us, our position will be more difficult, especially on the question of peace.

[AL-HAWADITH] You speak of changing the methods. Could these methods possibly include full military action or armed struggle by a central decision?

[Abu-Iyad] There is no PLO decision to stop military action. There is a decision to minimize such action to give the intifadah prominence. None of us are against that, but there is a difference between minimizing military action and stopping it and viewing it from the angle of terrorism as the United States does. We must say it loud and clear, to the Europeans and to American public opinion and the whole world, that we differentiate between a decision we took to reduce operations because the intifadah has prominence, and linking armed struggle to terrorism. This must be quite clear.

[AL-HAWADITH] What about the immigration of Soviet Jews?

[Abu-Iyad] First let me tell you that the immigration is continuing. Anyone who says otherwise is mistaken. The immigration is continuing in accordance with a prepared program, and the Soviet Union is now in a position where it cannot stop emigration. After Gorbachev's statement at the Washington summit, Israel most insolently replied that Israel was a democratic country and that Judea and Samaria were part of Israel. When the Soviet Union decided to open the door to Jewish emigration, it did so in accordance with a plan. It was part of that plan. I do not believe that the Soviet Union will stop the emigration. It may introduce some laws to lessen it,

but that will ultimately affect only hundreds, and they will not stop the main flow of emigration.

[AL-HAWADITH] But doesn't that mean tension and crisis in your relations with the Soviet Union based on the position it has taken?

[Abu-Iyad] I do not believe that we want to make new enemies. That is why, to this day, when we criticize the Soviet position, we do so as friends. We do not forget that the Soviet Union has opened an embassy for the state of Palestine and has recognized the state of Palestine and that its attitude to the PLO is positive and good, but today we raise our voice so that that friend will hear us and understand the meaning of the continuation of Jewish emigration and the effect it has on the extremists and on peace, so that it will realize that these Jews will displace the Palestinian owners of the land. That does not require begging; it requires a principled stand by the Soviet Union. We will continue to discuss this matter of contention with it as friends.

[AL-HAWADITH] What are your views on the Likud's formation of the Israeli Government, with such extremists as Sharon assuming power? What situation will arise, and what will your reaction be?

[Abu-Iyad] The Likud government will begin to exploit the Abu-al-'Abbas operation to deal some blows which, I believe, will be aimed at Libya and Jordan and the Palestinian institutions there and also at Tunisia, with attempts to assassinate Palestinian leaders. This is a government of war, or a government of small wars and one big war. It will proceed with endless barbarism, and if the U.S. Government gives that government the gift of suspending the dialogue with the PLO it will indulge even more in small wars, which could develop into a big war.

[AL-HAWADITH] In view of what you have said, how do you think the PLO would face all that?

[Abu-Iyad] All the methods used by the PLO over the past two years must be reconsidered in such a way as to bring about a clear PLO position on unity of Palestinian ranks and reliance on the pan-Arab dimension, and we must change many of the minor tactics we used—tactics based on making small concessions, small like little drops of water which eventually become a big puddle.

[AL-HAWADITH] Would unity in the Palestinian ranks require a new Palestine National Council [PNC] session, as some Palestinians are demanding?

[Abu-Iyad] What is needed is a central council meeting first. The central council is a large, basic body in the PNC and it is supposed to discuss such matters and then, if some of the issues raised require a PNC meeting, then the PNC must meet.

[AL-HAWADITH] What is your comment on the events that occurred in Jordan after the Israeli massacre in Tel Aviv—the demonstrations and incidents of violence, particularly the incident involving the French tourists?

[Abu-Iyad] I believe that all patriotic forces should support Jordan and prevent any internal subversion. I am all for the preservation of Jordan's new democratic face and nobody should, wittingly or unwittingly, undermine that democratic image. Second, I believe that Jordan is now facing the danger of a new battle due to the Shamir government, and we are all duty-bound to support Jordan and fight alongside it, because Israel dreams of doing away with all the solutions we advocate and does not want to solve its problems with the Palestinians and establish a just peace. It can only achieve that through a battle or a war with Jordan, in order to be able to move in large numbers of Palestinian evacuees or deportees to make room for the flow of Jewish immigrants. It will try to impose the so-called alternative homeland. I believe that it would be the greatest treason of our time to give Israel the opportunity or give it the idea that the Palestinians could accept an alternative homeland. We must fight the idea of an alternative homeland with all the means at our disposal. Here we have no reservations. We are fully behind Jordan on this, and we are prepared to fight to the last drop of our blood to prevent Israel from fulfilling its dream of an alternative homeland.

[AL-HAWADITH] We cannot end the interview without talking about the intifadah in its third year.

[Abu-Iyad] I have an opinion. Since the massacre of Arab workers in Tel Aviv my view has been that, despite that saddening massacre—which, incidentally, did not get enough attention from the world or enough condemnation of Israel, which committed the massacre and came up with the story of a deranged man or what have you; Israel will produce a thousand crazy men and commit a thousand massacres—I say that there is another aspect to that massacre, which is that it has recharged the young men of the intifadah, and the people now feel the deep enemy grudge against them and feel that if they relaxed the intifadah the enemy would use more bestial and humiliating methods against them. The massacre has recharged the young people of the intifadah, and we must support and protect this new trend in the intifadah with all our might. There should be no decisions or actions that might hamper this thrust, which must be strengthened and supplied with new ideas. The

PLO should also use new methods to maintain that thrust and develop it further. That is now under study, because the intifadah is the only weapon available to us now and our people there are determined not to retreat. But to strengthen the intifadah we need resources, and the foul play by some people must stop so that we can truly say: The intifadah will continue and will develop until victory.

Bal'awi Views Requested Arab League Meeting

*JN2406182090 Sanaa Voice of Palestine in Arabic
1604 GMT 24 Jun 90*

[Text] Brother Hakam Bal'awi, Palestine's ambassador in Tunis and its permanent representative to the Arab League, has said that the request submitted today by the state of Palestine demanding an emergency meeting of the Arab League Council at the foreign minister level is in keeping with Article 6 of the Arab League charter. This article stipulates that when there is aggression or the threat of aggression against an Arab League member state, the member state exposed to aggression or threatened may request an immediate meeting of the Arab League Council.

In a statement distributed in Tunis last night, brother Bal'awi stressed the need to hold the Arab League Council meeting in view of the genocidal war being waged by the Zionist occupation troops against the Palestinian people in the occupied territories. This is part of the basic guidelines of the recently formed Zionist entity's government's policy to strike at the Palestinian intifadah, in addition to Israel's public threats against some Arab states and its exposed preparations to expand and carry out acts of aggression, particularly in the wake of the U.S. Government's decision to suspend the U.S.-Palestinian dialogue.

Brother Bal'awi added that this decision encourages the Zionist entity's government to step up its official and planned terrorism, to carry out its aggression, and also to threaten pan-Arab security to a serious extent—all of which requires Arab states to take effective measures to face these grave dangers and serious threats to the Palestinian people and Arab destiny.

Algeria

Contradictory Election Totals Create Confusion

LD2206104290 Paris International Service
in French 0630 GMT 22 Jun 90

[Text] On the subject of the elections in Algeria, the publication of the figures by the Interior Ministry is creating a stir. These figures do not correspond to those given by the FIS [Islamic Salvation Front], and it is not easy to work out: Yvonne Lamarsadier.

[Lamarsadier] Yes, several days after the elections, no complete list of results had been published. One cannot really speak of a lack of information, but rather too many figures, and figures which sometimes contradict each other, in particular as far as participation rates are concerned. The confusion comes in between the number of those voting, and the number of votes cast: 400,000 electors have disappeared from one day to the next from the official calculations as a result of this confusion. Even the official Algerian Press Agency, APS, is asking questions, wondering whether the fall in participation is the result of more abstentions than originally announced, or from the entering of invalid votes. Some observers in Algiers think that the avalanche of figures put out by the authorities is not innocent: the FLN [National Liberation Front] in power finds it hard to accept the victory of the Islamic Salvation Front, while the first results issued gave more than 55 percent of the communes to the FIS by a different system of calculation, the score given to the Islamic party today is 33 percent of the votes of those on the register.

Egyptian Airport Incidents Prompt Complaint

LD2306120790 Algiers APS in Arabic
1030 GMT 23 Jun 90

[Text] Algiers, 23 Jun (APS)—Today's newspapers have learnt from various sources that the Egyptian authorities detained an Algerian official delegation led by Mr Kahlouche, the industry minister, for four hours at Cairo airport before allowing them to enter Egypt.

The newspapers also learnt that the Egyptian authorities have prevented a number of Algerian passengers from entering Egypt, and detained them for six days between 16 and 20 June [as received], then they put them on planes for various destinations.

The Egyptian authorities prevented in the evening of last Wednesday an Algerian airliner carrying 127 passengers from landing in Cairo airport despite the fact that it was on an ordinary flight, and forced it to leave Egyptian airspace.

The newspapers think that the Egyptian authorities have taken, and international conventions without informing the Algerian authorities in advance. [sentence as received]. They [the Egyptian authorities] unilaterally imposed entry visas on Algerian citizens.

The newspapers are surprised at this behavior by the Egyptian authorities. They pointed out that it is not the first of this kind and called it state gangsterism after the world has known the phenomenon of state terrorism.

ECH-CHAAB imputes this behavior to fears felt not only by enemies but even by brothers in view of the deep changes taking place in Algeria which have opened doors widely for democracy—a democracy which is made by the Algerian people in total freedom. Consequently, Algeria lodged a strongly-worded complaint at the highest level against this behavior which caused President Husni Mubarak to give orders to immediately put an end to it [this behavior].

Egypt

Further Reaction to Dialogue Suspension

AL-AHRAM Editorial

JN2406095190 Cairo AL-AHRAM in Arabic
22 Jun 90 p 7

[Editorial: "Peace Cannot Be Established This Way"]

[Text] After there emerged encouraging signs of a moderate, effective U.S. position on the Middle East conflict, President George Bush's decision to halt the dialogue with the PLO indicates that the United States is still using two standards—one for the Arabs and another for the Israelis. Before its decision to break off the dialogue with the PLO, the U.S. Administration made a good step toward breaking the current stalemate in the Middle East peace process through President George Bush's request to Yitzhak Shamir, Israeli prime minister, to expeditiously define his new government's policy and stands toward the attempts at reviving peace efforts.

This procedural step was satisfactory because it somehow reflected the U.S. concern not to allow extremist trends, which recently emerged clearly in Israel, to implement their scheme aimed at burying the Palestine question, aborting all peace initiatives, and returning the region once more to a climate of conflict and disastrous war. This is not our or the Americans' conclusions. It is the way the Israelis themselves view things. This viewpoint was expressed by Shim'on Peres, Labor Party leader, a few days ago in a speech he made before the heads of the biggest Jewish organizations, in which he explained that if peace opportunities are destroyed because of the new Israeli Government, then the ugly phenomenon which characterized this region in the past will resurface. By this phenomenon, Peres said he means escalating the arms race, increasing threats, expanding the domain of violence and terrorism and making preparations for war. This, he added, will be a tragic situation for all Middle East parties, and will speed up preparations for engaging in a new war.

Earlier, U.S. State Secretary James Baker demonstrated extreme displeasure with the Shamir government when he

made public that this government is not showing readiness for peace, and that when this government is ready for peace, it should call the White House. All these indications gave the impression that the U.S. Administration was heading toward serious action and a strong stand to resuscitate the frozen peace process in the region—in fact, this process has reached a dead end with the arrival of the extremist government in Israel. The decision to sever the dialogue with the PLO has overturned the situation in a manner which contravenes the constant U.S. pledge to seek a just and comprehensive peace.

If the matter involved punishing the PLO for a fedayeen operation carried out by an extremist wing of the Palestinian side, the United States should have halted all contacts and help it provides for Israel, especially since the most recent incidents support this statement. Take, for example, the Israeli soldier who killed seven Palestinian workers near Tel Aviv. Another instance is the Israeli officer who shelled a UN-affiliated child care center with asphyxiating gas—an incident which Washington merely condemned without asking Israel to punish the perpetrators. We believe the U.S. Administration should reconsider this decision which made the Palestinian people and their legitimate representative bear the responsibility for a single extremist wing in the PLO. We warn that the prevalence of a narrow, biased outlook will never guarantee the establishment of peace.

AL-JUMHURIYAH Editorial

JN2406110590 Cairo AL-JUMHURIYAH
in Arabic 22 Jun 90 p 6

[Editorial: "The Israeli Congress"]

[Text] It has almost become an established fact that the "Zionist lobby" plays a role in directing U.S. foreign policy. It is not strange at all, therefore, to see the two houses of Congress display enthusiastic support for Israeli interests, even if this support proves detrimental to U.S. interests and to U.S. commitments to its friends.

It is within this context that we should view the U.S. Congress demand that the U.S. Administration request the UN General Assembly to repeal a previous UN resolution equating Zionism with racism.

It is ironic that the Congress should adopt a resolution to this effect at a time when the UN Security Council issues a statement condemning the Israeli troops' teargassing of Palestinian mothers and children at an UNRWA clinic in the Gaza Strip.

It seems that Congress does not view Israeli practices as racist, even when they are worse than those of the Nazis, as if the killing of Arabs, torturing them, and turning them into strangers on their own national soil is of no concern to Congress, whose sole objective is to win Israel's satisfaction and to espouse its objectives, regardless of whether or not these objectives contravene the international law.

If this is the position of the pro-Israel U.S. Congress, how can anybody be surprised by the U.S. Administration's decision to suspend the dialogue with the PLO, ignoring the fact that this decision deals a severe blow to peace efforts, whose continuation the United States claims to be committed to?

AL-AKHBAR Editorial

JN2406145790 Cairo AL-AKHBAR in Arabic
22 Jun 90 p 6

[Editorial: "A Flimsy Excuse and an Unjust Decision"]

[Text] The strange decision by U.S. President George Bush to suspend the dialogue the United States initiated with the PLO at the end of 1988 casts further doubt on the true nature of U.S. intentions on efforts to resolve the Palestine question. This is despite U.S. hints to the contrary that have been communicated from time to time through statements expressing its serious desire to find a solution to this question.

What further obscures the U.S. position is that Bush's decision was based on the recommendation of Secretary of State James Baker who, only a few days ago, addressed public warnings to Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir of the consequences of any delay in taking a clear stand on proposed talks with the Palestinian side. Moreover, the flimsy excuse advanced by Washington to justify its suspension of the dialogue with the PLO unmistakably reveals a submission to pro-Israel elements within the U.S. Congress—elements that are making persistent and unceasing efforts to halt any dialogue between the U.S. Government and the PLO in order to satisfy Tel Aviv, which has not concealed its anger over the continuation of the dialogue.

The suspension of the U.S.-Palestinian dialogue will have no direct impact on the stalled peace process, because the dialogue—initiated almost one and a half years ago—has made no tangible progress toward its objectives. Furthermore, throughout its existence, the dialogue has been confined to talks with the U.S. ambassador in Tunis. There has been no consideration of upgrading the dialogue. The dialogue has been consistently used as a tool for threatening and blackmailing the PLO and for holding it responsible for any act that might anger the Israeli authorities and obstruct their efforts to kill Palestinians, expel them, and demolish their houses.

It is an abnormal and strange position that, we believe, does not befit a powerful and mighty country such as the United States. Besides, this position will not bolster confidence in the seriousness and credibility asserted in its statements—seriousness and credibility that are belied by its own actions.

TV Commentary

NC2606104090 Cairo Television Service
in English 1716 GMT 25 Jun 90

[Salim Rizqallah commentary from the "News Spotlight" program]

[Text] It is evident that the United States is trying hard to contain Arab and world reaction to that regrettable decision of suspending the dialogue with the PLO. Now one thing is quite clear. Much as the United States may have anticipated the strength of Arab reaction to such a move, it seems to have been taken by surprise as to that feeling of bitter frustration unleashed in the Arab world by the American decision, which many felt was driving the peace process back to square one, if not blowing it altogether.

Now why is it that the suspension of the dialogue with the PLO should trigger such strong Arab reaction? An accurate analysis of the prevalent mood calls for a deeper insight into the very background of the peace process. Quite objectively, we all do know that despite the tremendous efforts exerted in the past few years, very little progress, if any, has been made. Again, the U.S.-PLO dialogue, which was resumed in December 1988 after 13 years of silence, has so far achieved nothing spectacular, with no attempt even to upgrade the meetings. Some might ask then what is the Arab world wailing about and why the frustration?

The answer is simple. The dialogue means the American recognition of the justice of the Palestinian cause. It means hope. It means endeavors for an eventual even-handed policy without which the area will remain strived on forever. What is more, comes the suspension of the dialogue as part of a frustrating series which the Arab world finds incomprehensible, irritating, and most untimely. First there was the Senate resolution to proclaim Jerusalem capital of Israel. Then came the adoption of a similar resolution by the American House of Representatives. Those decisions the Arab world made with some reservation, however, considering that the U.S. Administration declared its opposition to both. Then there was the American veto which defeated a Security Council resolution endorsed by all other 14 members, which was not so much something denouncing or censoring Israel for her outrageous practices in the occupied territories, but merely providing for the dispatch of a fact-finding mission to the occupied Arab land.

In the meantime, American pressure is being exerted to have the United Nations revoke a 1975 decision putting Zionism and racism on the same footing. And right now, at the time when Secretary of State James Baker has been so critical of Israeli procrastination and deviousness before a congressional Foreign Relations Committee meeting, comes the decision to suspend the dialogue with the PLO as a punishment for an abortive attempt by a Palestinian dissident group, which is in no way affiliated to the PLO and for whose actions the PLO can in no way be responsible for.

Probing into this background is imperative because it goes a long way to explain the reason behind the Arab frustration triggered by the suspension of the U.S.-PLO dialogue. It is more of the straw that broke the camel's back, so to speak. Then again, the prevalent mood is more of a query: Is this a reward for Israeli intransigence and defiance?

The declaration made by the grand shaykh of al-Azhar on the Egyptian presidential statement, following the U.S. decision to suspend the dialogue with the PLO, shows sincerity and directness of approach. The grand shaykh of al-Azhar said the Egyptian presidential statement, which echoes the feelings of all the Egyptians, is but a pause with a friend, meaning of course the United States. And indeed it is this credibility that is prompting Egypt today to pursue her endeavors and make sure that nothing will be allowed to impede the drive for the reactivation of the peace process.

In the wake of the American decision to suspend the dialogue with the PLO and Egypt's expression of regret, the Bush-Mubarak consultations were stepped up to put matters in the proper perspective and avert a further escalation in the Middle East conflict. Egyptian Foreign Minister Dr. 'Ismat 'Abd-al-Majid is already in Washington for talks with President Bush and senior U.S. officials.

As the Egyptian presidential statement so clearly points out, it is inconceivable that the American-PLO dialogue should be suspended at a time when efforts are being exerted to persuade Israel toward the PLO. It is indeed pathetic that while the whole world is grieved and disappointed over the new setback in the peace process, we have voices that hail what they call the triumph of Israeli diplomacy. It is indeed pathetic because the grave setback we are talking about is a setback to Middle East peace in its broader sense. A setback fraught with grim perils.

It is not a mere setback to the Palestinians alone but to the people of the entire area. In other words, when the Arab world forges ahead for the application of a peace formula deemed compatible with the provisions of international law and when Egypt and most of the Arab world works closely with the U.S. Administration and other communities to stir matters toward a proper settlement, they are not after some personal glory or the triumph of their diplomacy. What they seek is the mere establishment of peace based on justice in a volatile area that is more of a powder keg ready to go off any moment. The triumph they are desperately after is the triumph of peace and peace alone. They are after stability so that all may feel secure in this strife-torn area which has already been plagued for much too long.

To be more explicit, we are not thinking of a battle where there would be winners and losers. We are talking of a settlement where all would gather around the conference table, thrash out their differences, their grievances, and their fears, if any, and come up with the kind of formula compatible with the letter and spirit of the United Nations Charter. Israel would not be a loser since she

would be giving back what is not hers and never was. The Arabs would not be winners since they would be taking back what is theirs and always has been. From such an encounter, peace and peace alone would triumph.

President Bush was far-sighted and had the right perspective when he declared at a press conference in Washington that he anticipated the Arab countries most friendly to America, particularly the moderate states, as he put it, to find the suspension of the dialogue with the PLO inappropriate. He went on to say that he also did appreciate the fact that there were those who warned that such steps would affect peace and pave the way for more extremism.

Indeed, this is quite true. Frustration is a dangerous feeling and often drives people to desperation which can only add to that mood of uncertainty where anything can happen. There again, we are not going to try to compare between that condoning attitude adopted when an Israeli soldier murdered seven Palestinians in cold blood followed by a brutal Israeli crackdown on the Arabs who dared to protest in the occupied lands, and that angry confrontation with the PLO and punitive measures against it for an abortive attempt on the Israeli coast by a Palestinian group which is in no way affiliated to the PLO. But has it ever dawned on those who keep hammering at the PLO that there are many Palestinian dissident groups that would love to foil 'Arafat's endeavors and blow up the peace initiative altogether? Right in the middle of that PLO predicament where the organization is being accused and condemned for something it has not done, we hear of another abortive attempt last Saturday by a so-called Palestinian torpedo boat in north Lebanon. Surely, everyone recalls the attempted massacre of 'Arafat and his men in Lebanon a few years back by dissident Palestinian groups who disapprove of the PLO moderation and peaceful line of conduct. Those groups will never give up, unless they are cut down to size by an overall Middle East settlement that would strip them of their power.

It is indeed odd, when 'Arafat and the PLO forge ahead for peace, Israel says they will never be accredited to represent the Palestinians. And when a Palestinian dissident group—that is not only diametrically opposed to the PLO but views 'Arafat and his men as enemy number one—commits some act mainly to foil the peace endeavors, Israel immediately brands the PLO as terrorists responsible for all Palestinian actions. The general feeling is that whatever positive and constructive steps the PLO takes the Israelis reject out of hand, because they dread a dialogue with the Palestinians which would inevitably lead to the return of the occupied territories.

This explains why the Israeli Government was hysterical in December 1988 when the United States decided to talk with the Palestinians after 13 years of silence. Israel said at the time that the United States would soon wise up to a bad decision. It was a bad decision, but only for Israel's expansionist plans and ambitions. It was a decision intended to promote peace which conflicts with those dreams of a greater Israel. Upon landing in Israel,

Soviet Jewish immigrants were given maps showing the West Bank and the Gaza Strip to be part of Israel, with an explanatory note written across those areas which says: Inhabited mostly by Arabs for the time being.

Syrian Ambassador

NC2306183490 Cairo MENA in Arabic
1720 GMT 23 Jun 90

[Text] Cairo, 23 Jun (MENA)—Dr. 'Isamat 'Abd-al-Majid, deputy prime minister and foreign minister, conferred here today with Dr. 'Isa Darwish, Syrian ambassador to Cairo.

Speaking after the meeting, the Syrian ambassador said that the meeting came within the framework of the continued consultations between Egypt and Syria, adding that the discussion dealt with the recent developments at the Arab and international levels. He added that the issue of the suspension of the Palestinian-U.S. dialogue had been discussed during the meeting, in which Dr. 'Abd-al-Majid outlined Egypt's position as officially announced in a statement issued by the presidential office.

Regarding the expected visit to Cairo by Syrian President Hafiz al-Asad, Dr. Darwish said that no date had yet been fixed for the visit, adding that it is natural for Presidents Mubarak and al-Asad to visit each other.

Asked about the EC meeting slated for 25 June in Dublin, the Syrian ambassador said: We Arabs look forward to this meeting of the EC, which has always been objective in its resolutions and stood beside Arab rights and international legitimacy with respect to the Middle East issue.

Regarding the coming Arab summit to be held in Cairo in November and the need to clear the Arab atmosphere, the Syrian ambassador said Syria has always advocated Arab solidarity and the need to clear the Arab atmosphere, which was precisely the condition Syria had set for attending the Baghdad summit. He added: Before launching any Arab action, there must be clarity and an awareness of what needs to be done, so that we can confront any challenge and any threat to the best of our ability. However, Syria blesses and supports any effort to enhance Arab solidarity and joint Arab action.

Asked about the possibility of a meeting between the Syrian and Iraqi foreign ministers, the Syrian ambassador stressed that he has no information on this matter.

Asked about Syria's position regarding the U.S. suspension of the dialogue with the PLO, Dr. Darwish said that Syria had emphasized from the start that an international conference, at which there must be effective participation by the Security Council permanent members as well as the parties concerned in the Middle East region, is the place to discuss the Palestinian issue. Therefore, he added, any dialogue conducted in this way or that will not be in the interest of the cause, because the issue of peace in the Middle East is a complicated one. Therefore, we believe that the appropriate forum for

discussing the issue of Palestine and the occupied Arab territories is an international conference.

Israeli Envoy Brings Message From Levi

JN2406180090 Cairo AL-WAFD in Arabic
23 Jun 90 pp 1, 2

[By 'Abd-al-Nabi 'Abd-al-Sattar]

[Text] AL-WAFD has learned that Dr. 'Ismat 'Abd-al-Majid, deputy prime minister and foreign minister, received in the course of last week a message from Israeli Foreign Minister David Levi, who is receiving treatment in a Tel Aviv hospital. Shim'on Shamir, Israeli ambassador in Cairo, handed 'Abd-al-Majid the message after returning to Cairo recently.

Sources at the Foreign Ministry have said that the message deals with the future of Egyptian-Israeli relations under the new Israeli Government. The Israeli foreign minister called for removing the causes of tension in relations between Cairo and Tel Aviv, working to end the Arab-Israeli conflict, and stopping Egyptian media campaigns. The sources added that the Israeli foreign minister urged Cairo to implement all the frozen agreements between the two countries, particularly the agreements in trade, cultural, and tourism cooperation in order to give momentum to the normalization of relations.

AL-WAFD has also learned that the U.S. Administration informed Jordan's King Husayn last week of Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir's desire to hold negotiations with Jordan, to conclude a bilateral peace treaty, and to end all outstanding problems between the two countries. Israel also said it was very concerned about Jordan's stability. Israel justified—through the U.S. Administration—the tight security measures on the Israeli-Jordanian border by saying that it wants to prevent fedayeen infiltration to the occupied territory across the Jordanian border.

Editorial Refutes Shamir Statement on Peace

JN2106210490 Cairo AL-JUMHURIYAH in Arabic
20 Jun 90 p 6

[Editorial: "An Attempt at Embellishment"]

[Text] The National Democratic Party's newspaper MAYU the day before yesterday published an interview with Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir in which he claimed that he is interested in peace and called for ending the intifadah and dissolving the PLO.

Naturally, we do not expect Shamir to change his intransigent positions—even in an interview with an Egyptian newspaper. However, we hoped he would have given an answer to the question asked by all observers: Is the government of hawks, which was finally formed by Shamir, really able to contribute to making peace?

It is impossible to convince anyone that Sharon and his ilk seek to make peace and abandon aggression while

he—day and night—makes public his dreams of expansion and megalomania—dreams shared by the extremists who now make up Shamir's government.

It is also impossible to convince anyone of an Israeli peace based on denying the Palestinian people's rights, uprooting them from their land to make room for the Jewish emigres from all over the world, imposing severe collective punishment including murder and imprisonment against any Palestinian who defends himself and his land, and repeating aggressive threats against the Arab states.

Israel's practices in the occupied territories refute Shamir's claims and make them a mere attempt to beautify an ugly picture.

Ghali Returns to Cairo, Makes Statement

NC2206204090 Cairo Domestic Service in Arabic
2000 GMT 22 Jun 90

[Text] Dr. Butrus Ghali, minister of state for foreign affairs, returned to Cairo this evening following a tour that took him to France, Japan, and Malaysia.

In an arrival statement, Dr. Ghali said he will submit a comprehensive report to President Husni Mubarak on the outcome of his talks in the three countries and on his meetings with a number of heads of state and their foreign ministers. He pointed out that the talks dealt with African issues and the problems facing the African continent, particularly the matter of debts. Dr. Ghali added that the talks also touched on Egyptian-African ties.

In his statement, Dr. Ghali said that during his visit to France he relayed messages from President Mubarak to the Moroccan monarch, French President Mitterrand, the Senegalese president, and the Djibouti president. He held talks with the foreign ministers of Senegal and Mauritania on the sidelines of the African-French summit which was held in France. Dr. Ghali emphasized that the discussions centered on ways of resolving the Senegalese-Mauritanian conflict. It has been agreed to hold a new round of talks in Addis Ababa on 3 July, Dr. Ghali said.

Dr. Ghali stated that he had attended the 15-state summit which was held in Malaysia to activate South-South cooperation. He said he conveyed messages from President Mubarak to the Malaysian king and prime minister as well as to the Venezuelan, Argentine, and Senegalese presidents on international and African issues of mutual concern. Dr. Ghali said he also visited Japan, where he held talks with the Japanese prime minister and foreign minister on issues concerning the two countries and on bilateral relations.

'Abd-al-Majid, Al-Baz Leave for Washington, Rome

NC2406065190 Cairo MENA in Arabic
0602 GMT 24 Jun 90

[Text] Cairo, 24 Jun (MENA)—Dr. 'Ismat 'Abd-al-Majid, deputy prime minister and foreign minister, and Dr.

Usamah al-Baz, Foreign Ministry first under secretary and director of the president's office for political affairs, left Cairo this morning for Washington and Rome.

In a departure statement, 'Abd-al-Majid said he is going to Washington on assignment by President Mubarak following yesterday's telephone contact between his excellency and U.S. President George Bush to discuss current developments concerning the Middle East issue and to find a way to propel the peace efforts. 'Abd-al-Majid will convey a message from President Mubarak to the U.S. President.

He pointed out that his visit to Italy reciprocates the Italian foreign minister's recent visit to Egypt.

Noting that Italy will chair the EC as of 1 July, he said his discussions in Rome will be conducted within the context of talks Egypt is holding with the EC to coordinate economic and political points of view.

He added he will meet with Prime Minister Giulio Andreotti during his visit to Italy.

Sayf-al-Nasr Leaves for Nonaligned Conference

*NC2406095590 Cairo Domestic Service in Arabic
0900 GMT 24 Jun 90*

[Text] Assistant Foreign Minister Ambassador 'Aziz Sayf-al-Nasr left Cairo for Algiers this morning to attend the ministerial conference of the Mediterranean nonaligned countries, due to open in the Algerian capital tomorrow.

The conferees will discuss issues concerning nonaligned countries in the Mediterranean and ways to boost cooperation between these countries in various fields. The conferees will also discuss Egypt's initiative to make the Mediterranean region an area free from mass destruction weapons, as well as confidence-building measures for mutual arms cuts under UN supervision.

PLO's Al-Hasan Concludes Visit, Departs

*NC2506183990 Cairo MENA in English
1830 GMT 25 Jun 90*

[Text] Cairo, June 25 (MENA)—Hani al-Hasan, advisor to Palestinian President Yasir 'Arafat, left here today at the end of a two day visit during which he met a number of Egyptian officials.

In a predeparture statement, al-Hasan said the Palestine Liberation Organization (PLO), is anticipating results of the current visit to the United States by Egyptian Deputy Premier and Foreign Minister Dr. 'Ismat 'Abd-al-Majid.

What will be the attitude of the United States if the Israeli massacres against the West Bank and Gaza Strip Palestinians continue, asked al-Hasan, holding the U.S. Administration responsible of its behaviour of bias to Israel. America is responsible for Palestinian blood baths, committed upon directives from Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir, he said.

Economic Delegation Returns From Libya

*NC2606092090 Cairo MENA in Arabic
0639 GMT 26 Jun 90*

[Text] Cairo, 26 Jun (MENA)—An Egyptian economic delegation returned to Cairo from a one-day visit to the Libyan Jamahiriya this morning. The delegation included Dr. Yusuf Wali, deputy prime minister and minister of agriculture and land reclamation; Dr. Yusri Mustafa, minister of economy and foreign trade; Finance Minister Dr. Muhammad al-Razzaz; and Central Bank Governor Dr. Salah Hamid. The talks during the visit centered on ways to consolidate and promote the economic and trade relations between Egypt and Libya as well as opening a permanent trade center in both Cairo and Tripoli.

Mubarak, Ghali Receive Guinean Foreign Minister

African Disputes Discussed

*NC2506103490 Cairo Domestic Service
in Arabic 0900 GMT 25 Jun 90*

[Text] President Muhammad Husni Mubarak received Guinean Foreign Minister Jean Traore this morning.

Dr. Butrus Ghali, minister of state for foreign affairs, who attended the meeting, said the Guinean minister conveyed to President Mubarak a message from Guinean President Lansana Conte on the situation in Western Africa. He added that the Guinean minister explained his country's stand on the Senegalese-Mauritanian dispute and the current civil war in Liberia.

Ghali pointed out that President Mubarak asserted that Egypt is working to establish peace in Africa and to settle existing disputes by peaceful means.

Dr. Ghali said the talks held between the foreign ministers of Egypt and Guinea were very positive and noted that they dealt with African issues and bilateral ties. He added that the talks will be resumed in Addis Ababa next week to continue the discussion of all matters of mutual concern to both countries.

Ghali, Traore Meet Further

*NC2406102190 Cairo MENA in Arabic
0949 GMT 24 Jun 90*

[Text] Cairo, 24 Jun (MENA)—A session of Egyptian-Guinean talks was held in Cairo today. Dr. Butrus Ghali, minister of state for foreign affairs, led the Egyptian side, while the Guineans were led by Foreign Minister Jean Traore, who arrived in Cairo early this morning.

The conferees reviewed bilateral relations and discussed ways to promote them in all economic, cultural, and technical fields. They also reviewed both countries' stands on all African issues of mutual concern within the framework of preparations for the forthcoming African summit conference, due to be held 9-11 July.

The Guinean side praised the Egyptian expertise operating in Guinea which contributes to the comprehensive national development plans in that country.

Omani Sultan's Advisor Arrives in Cairo

NC2606053390 *Cairo MENA in English*
2204 GMT 25 Jun 90

[Text] Cairo, June 25 (MENA)—'Umar al-Zawawi, advisor to Sultan Qabus Bin-Sa'id of Oman for foreign contacts, arrived here tonight on a several days visit to Egypt.

Mubarak Addresses Water Policy Symposium

NC2506104590 *Cairo Domestic Service*
in Arabic 1000 GMT 25 Jun 90

[Text] President Muhammad Husni Mubarak has said that the ideal usage of water resources in Africa, in light of the current relative water shortage, the expected rise in the demand for water in the near future, and, consequently, the increased importance of water resources in economic and social development, requires cooperation and coordination among the African states to adopt adequate measures to best utilize the available water resources both at regional and continent levels.

Today his excellency addressed a message to an international symposium on water policies and technology, which is being held in Cairo.

Relief Mission Leaves for Iran

NC2406095290 *Cairo MENA in Arabic*
0830 GMT 24 Jun 90

[Text] Cairo, 24 Jun (MENA)—Several military aircraft carrying large quantities of medicine, food, and relief equipment left Cairo for Iran early this morning. President Husni Mubarak ordered the shipment as urgent aid to the Iranians after the strong earthquakes recently, resulting in the death of thousands of Iranians.

General Yusuf Sabri Abu-Talib, commander in chief of the Armed Forces and minister of defense and war production, has ordered more military aircraft to fly to Iran today ferrying the Egyptian aid, to which various concerned ministries have contributed. This assistance comes within the framework of Egypt's continuing eagerness to assist brothers and friends, especially in times of natural disasters.

Chief of Staff Attends Suez Canal Exercise

JN2406114890 *Cairo AL-JUMHURIYAH in Arabic*
22 Jun 90 pp 1, 13

[By Jamal Kamal]

[Text] Lieutenant General Safiyy-al-Din Abu-Shanaf, chief of staff of the Armed Forces, yesterday witnessed the final stage of a training exercise carried out by one of the Third Army formations. The exercise covered

crossing water barriers using bridges and ferries under simulated enemy air activity and using all weapons.

This stage began with the building of a heavy bridge to cross the Suez Canal through the path used by ferries. This stage was carried out by military engineers with protection from the air forces and air defense. Elements of the reconnaissance, mechanized infantry, armored forces, artillery, and air defense crossed in record time, led by planes and using smoke screens. The forces clashed with enemy paratroops which attempted to obstruct the crossing.

The exercise demonstrated skill in crossing with amphibious equipment under battle circumstances with joint forces, as well as the proficiency of officers and leaders in making quick decisions.

Lieutenant General Abu-Shanaf praised the forces' ability to overcome the difficulties of crossing and asserted the need for continued combat preparedness to implement combat missions.

The exercise was attended by Major General 'Ali Ahmad Salih, commander of the Third Army; Major General Ibrahim 'Atwah, head of the Training Staff; Major General 'Abd-al-Mun'im Sa'id, the Suez governor; and senior Army Forces commanders.

Libya

Egyptian Delegation Arrives in Tripoli 25 Jun

LD2506121190 *Tripoli Voice of Greater Arab*
Homeland in Arabic 1130 GMT 25 Jun 90

[Text] Dr Yusuf Wali, deputy prime minister and minister of agriculture in the Arab Republic of Egypt; Dr Yusri Mustafa, minister of external economy and trade; Dr Muhammad al-Razzaz, minister of finance; Dr Salah Hamid, governor of the Egyptian Central Bank; and Sa'd al-Faraj and Majdi 'Umar, ambassadors at the Egyptian Foreign Ministry, arrived in Tripoli this morning.

Burkinabe Head of State Arrives in Tripoli

AB2406213690 *Ouagadougou Domestic Service*
in French 1900 GMT 24 Jun 90

[Text] Since yesterday, the Burkinabe head of state has been in Tripoli. Captain Blaise Compaore, who arrived in the evening from Paris, was expected to hold a series of talks with Libyan authorities.

JANA Reports Arrival of Libyan Aid in Tehran

LD2506170190 *Tripoli JANA in English* 1424 GMT
25 Jun 90

[Text] Tripoli, al-Sayf [June] 25, Arab Maghreb Union Pool, JANA—Yesterday in Tehran, the first batch of the urgent humanitarian aid arrived. It is given by the Libyan Arab people to its brotherly Iranian people sustaining earthquakes recently.

Medical and food-stuffs besides tents and blankets were on board Libyan Arab plane.

Cooperation Protocol Concluded With Turkey

LD2506171390 Tripoli JANA in English 1418 GMT
25 Jun 90

[Text] Tripoli, al-Sayf [June] 25, JAMAHIRIYA NEWS AGENCY—Yesterday afternoon, at Tripoli International Airport, the protocol of cooperation between Great al-Jamahiriyah and Turkey was concluded.

The protocol was signed by the secretary of the General People's Committee for Professional Training and Mr. Shibili [name as received], the state minister for economic affairs in Turkey.

The protocol includes an increase and promotion of cooperation between the two friendly peoples in Great al-Jamahiriyah and Turkey to serve the common interest.

Mauritania

Diplomatic Relations Established With Peru

LD1906225190 Nouakchott Domestic Service in Arabic
2038 GMT 19 Jun 90

[Excerpt] The Islamic Republic of Mauritania and the Republic of Peru have decided to establish diplomatic relations at the level of ambassador. [passage omitted]

Morocco

King Hassan Returns From Franco-African Summit

LD2506193290 Rabat Domestic Service in Arabic
1600 GMT 25 Jun 90

[Excerpt] His Majesty King Hassan II returned home from France this afternoon after participating in the 16th Franco-African summit in La Baule. [passage omitted]

Urges Caution on Algerian Poll

LD2206144890 Rabat MAP in English 1222 GMT
22 Jun 90

[Text] La Baule, Jun 22 (MAP)—King Hassan II said here Thursday that one should not draw 'hasty conclusions and make irreversible judgement' on the local elections held recently in Algeria.

King Hassan II who was participating in the news conference held after the closing session of the 16th French-African summit (June 19 to 21) said when asked whether he had discussed the issue of Algerian elections with President Francois Mitterrand of France that 'sometimes, it is necessary that two heads of state discuss a matter that is not properly theirs, merely to show the interest they have, one in an old partner the other in a secular neighbour.'

'I think that the outcome of Algerian elections should not prompt hasty conclusions or irreversible judgements on our part,' the sovereign said adding that 'one must not forget that there had not been, for 25 years, any multi-party democratic experience in Algeria. The analysis of the poll alone can enable to see (whether) there is a rise of fundamentalism or not, and in my opinion, this analysis can only be backed up by the exercise of municipal and communal power when entrusted to the elects [as received] of the Islamic Salvation Front' (FIS-Algerian fundamentalist party).

'It is only then, with proofs at hand, that we can say whether the rise of the FIS is a sanction against the party which ruled the country for 25 years (the National Liberation Front-FLN), whether the FIS is really fundamentalist...or whether it is reformist. Then we can inform you about our own analysis,' King Hassan II said. The sovereign said there is no need to start complaining about Algeria. This would be premature and extremely imprudent and would even prevent the process from developing...on the field. 'Before making analyses and drawing conclusions, one should wait,' King Hassan II said.

Deplores U.S.-PLO Talks Suspension

LD2206132790 Rabat MAP in English 1224 GMT
22 Jun 90

[Text] La Baule, Jun 22 (MAP)—'We deplore and regret' the U.S. decision to suspend dialogue with the Palestine Liberation Organization (PLO), said King Hassan II of Morocco when asked to comment on the U.S. decision during a news conference here Thursday at the end of the 16th French-African summit.

King Hassan II said the U.S. decision "was a disagreeable surprise to us...as you know it took years for contacts to be officially established between the USA and the PLO".

"You would tell me it's a suspension. I wish the word 'suspension' be used legally here so that this be a suspension and not an interruption...anyhow, we deplore and regret it," the sovereign said.

MAP Reports Activities in France

LD2506164990 Rabat MAP in English 1404 GMT
25 Jun 90

[Text] Nantes, Jun 25 (MAP)—King Hassan II left the Nantes airport (north-western France) this Monday noon at the end of a week long visit to France during which he partook in the 16th conference of heads of state of France and Africa held at La Baule this June 19 to 21.

During the conference, the sovereign pleaded Africa's cause in his opening speech as outgoing chairman of the conference as well as in the press conference he jointly held with President Francois Mitterrand of France, acting chairman of the conference, and President Haj Omar Bongo of Gabon whose country will host the 17th French-African conference in 1992. King Hassan II thus

called on Western Europe "to reconsider" the North-South cooperation and to help young democracies in Africa blossom out instead of "casting a veil of shame over African countries."

The sovereign's visit was marked by intensive talks with attending heads of state and heads of delegations. Besides the side talks he held with the French president, King Hassan II received at his residence a number of African leaders including presidents of Benin, Baron, Congo, and Chad.

After the closing of the French-African conference Thursday, the sovereign who remained in France on a private visit, Friday received the foreign ministers of the member countries of the Arab Tripartite Committee on Lebanon (Saudi Arabia, Algeria, Morocco) who briefed him on their latest drives to find a way out to the Lebanese crisis. At the end of this audience, the creation of an international fund for support to Lebanon was announced. King Hassan II also received Sunday the Arab League envoy to the committee Lakhdar Ibrahim.

The royal visit was marked Sunday by the reception the sovereign offered, aboard the ferry boat "Le Marakech," in honor of about one hundred Moroccan nationals living in the cities bordering the French atlantic coast. During the reception, the sovereign was accompanied by Prince Moulay Rachid and Princess Lalla Hasna. In an address he made on the occasion, King Hassan II expressed satisfaction at "the excellent reputation" of Moroccan nationals living in France through their exemplary behavior and respect of the laws, regulations and customs of their hosting country and at "their attachment to their authenticity, religion and values".

King Sends Condolences to Hashemi-Rafsanjani

LD2506123890 Rabat MAP in English 1216 GMT
25 Jun 90

[Text] Rabat, Jun 25 (MAP)—King Hassan II sent President of Iran Hashemi-Rafsanjani a message of condolence following the earthquake that hit the north and north-west of Iran. The sovereign voiced in his message the Moroccan people's solidarity with the Iranian people on the occasion of this catastrophe and affirmed Morocco's readiness to extend the injured and disaster victims all the material assistance it can.

Al-Kharrubi Arrives With Al-Qadhdhafi Message

LD2506222290 Rabat RTM Television Network
in Arabic 2100 GMT 25 Jun 90

[Excerpt] In the context of the established consultations between the Kingdom of Morocco and the Libyan Arab Jamahiriyyah, Colonel Mustafa al-Kharrubi, member of the leadership of the Libyan revolution and inspector general of the armed forces, arrived in Rabat this evening. The Libyan envoy bears a private message from

Colonel Mu'ammarr al-Qadhdhafi for his brother His Majesty King Hasan II. [passage omitted]

Maghreb News Agency General Conference Ends

LD2206214190 Rabat MAP in English 1308 GMT
22 Jun 90

[Text] Algiers, Jun 22 (MAP)—The second conference of the general directors of the five Maghreb news agencies wound up here Wednesday by the adoption of several recommendations including the connection of the Mauritanian News Agency "AMI" to the Maghreb "Pool/UMA" network. The conference also recommended, after assessing the results of the pool, the qualitative and quantitative promotion of the "Pool/UMA" through the increase of the dispatches sent to the Pool by each one of the news agencies from five to ten, not exceeding 2000 words each and conforming to international format.

The director generals also agreed to keep on disseminating the full text of the dispatches safe in rare cases where the Pool coordinator will have to contact the different Maghreb cells to see to the case.

They had adopted as a working document the results reached by the experts of the Maghreb agencies at the Algiers meeting on the development of cooperation between the press agencies archive departments and on the exchange of expertise and know-how.

The meeting called the archive systems to endeavor to implement the recommendations made in this respect including the standardization of classification norms and the creation of a Maghreb database.

They decided that the Pool general coordinator be from the country holding the presidency of the Pool, following a Moroccan proposal, destined to facilitate the follow up and the coordination between the Pool presidency and the different national cells. The moves to have connections with the AMI were left as a choice for the other news agencies which will take initiatives with their telecommunication departments to make the necessary connections. The agencies which will have set the connection with the Mauritanian one will transmit AMI services to the Pool and vice-versa.

Morocco has already taken steps in this respect through probably a satellite telephone means. The directors also decided to carry on consideration of the issue.

The conference reaffirmed the principle on the creation of a Maghreb News Agency pursuant to the results reached by a working group at the first conference of Rabat in 1989. The results will be referred to two committees for further consideration particularly concerning financial aspects of the project and the mission of the Maghreb Press Agency. The committees will convene a little while before the third conference due next December in Tripoli.

The conference adopted as working document the report by MAP director general Abdeljalil Fenjiro on the first six months of the operation of the Pool in his capacity as outgoing president of the Pool.

Sudan

Al-Bashir Reviews First Year in Power

JN2306183590 Kuwait AL-ANBA' in Arabic
23 June 90 p 23

[Interview with Lieutenant General 'Umar Hasan Ahmad al-Bashir, chairman of the Sudanese National Salvation Revolution Command Council, by Ahmad Hanaqah in Khartoum; date not given]

[Excerpts] [Hanaqah] Many regimes have ruled Sudan. Why did you come to power, and what have you achieved during your first year in office?

[Al-Bashir] We came to power because the other governments promised and did not deliver. As for what we achieved during our first year, there is much in evidence. The most important thing is that we avoided promising something that we could not deliver. We cannot fit all the things we have achieved over the last year into an answer to a question. However, Sudan has achieved security, and the state won self-respect. Law and order have been restored; the people are reassured about their lives, property, and honor; and the activities of the insurgents and saboteurs in the southern part of the country have receded, thanks to the unity between the people and the Army. The revolution has also been effective in its activity to realize peace in the country.

[Hanaqah] The war in the south has come closer to internationalization. What are the government's efforts to decide the issue, and what has the U.S. initiative accomplished? What are your reservations about it?

[Al-Bashir] The new government began serious efforts to end the rebellion in the south from the first day of the revolution. We adhered to the cease-fire and proclaimed amnesty for those who were opposed to the laws of good citizenship and citizens' rights. We held an expanded meeting for dialogue on the peace issues, in which all the national groups and the various schools of thought participated. We went to negotiations twice, first in Addis Ababa and then in Nairobi, and we heeded all voices and accepted all mediations for peace. Meanwhile, we strengthened our internal front and our military capabilities in order to preserve the nation's soil and cohesion. As for the U.S. initiative, we are still looking into it. We made many substantive observations on it, mostly in connection with our rejection of the idea of internationalization, which you have just mentioned. If someone rejects the idea of internationalizing the Palestinian problem and the idea of the international conference, then one cannot claim to be logical when talking about internationalizing an issue which is an internal matter of ours, an issue of our national sovereignty.

However, we do not reject any endeavor by any brother or friend to bring viewpoints closer and help solve the insurgency and sabotage in Sudan. [passage omitted]

[Hanaqah] There is military cooperation between Sudan and Iraq, and between Sudan and Libya in the southern war. Why are others interfering in internal matters? Even if this interference is positive, will it not compromise the independent decisionmaking of the homeland?

[Al-Bashir] There is cooperation in all fields between Sudan and Iraq on the one hand and between Sudan and the Jamahiriya on the other. It is cooperation among brothers. The southern issue is an internal matter, and none of the brothers have tried to intervene in a way that might harm Sudan's national sovereignty and its right to preserve its unity. If there is military cooperation, it is not directed against the south. It is cooperation between governments. The Sudanese Government decides how and where to use the assistance. Helping a brother will not compromise sovereignty or affect free political decisions. Independence is promoted by cooperation, solidarity, and unity.

[Hanaqah] What is the military standing of the rebels in the aftermath of their successive setbacks in 1989?

[Al-Bashir] Their military back has been broken, but they still maintain isolated pockets. They are now certain that their agent guns shall not avail them against our cultural existence. They are a compliant tool in the hands of others, and as such they will not be discarded even though they have failed to deliver the goods. Now the rebels are a nuisance beset by differences and consumed by greed. We have urged the reasonable of their number to make peace, and have granted amnesty to whoever repented. Groups of returnees who have taken up the amnesty offer are being welcomed back every day.

[Hanaqah] How deep are the differences between Addis Ababa and the Garang movement, and do you see them irrevocably divorced?

[Al-Bashir] Much as the rebel movement would hate for it to happen, the irrevocable divorce is imminent. The rebel movement has now begun to talk about the weakness of the Ethiopian regime, and has been intimating to its bankrollers that it is likely to topple. The rebel movement fears for itself from the possible revenge of the growing Ethiopian and Eritrean opposition and their escalating military action. Meanwhile, the movement has sensed a new desire by the Mengistu Government to improve ties with Sudan and has noted Sudan's preparedness to develop the ancient relations between the Sudanese and Ethiopian peoples. The rebel movement is now casting about for an entry visa to another country that could preside over sabotage in southern Sudan.

[Hanaqah] Does the United States have real influence over the rebels, and how much store can you set on Herman Cohen's initiative?

[Al-Bashir] The United States does have contacts with the movement, but I do not think these can be elevated

to the status of influence, considering that the movement's ideology is extreme Marxism, its inclusion of suspect rightwing elements notwithstanding. We accept Herman Cohen's initiative as a starter for negotiations if the fundamental amendments we have suggested are incorporated into it. [passage omitted]

[Hanaqah] What is the state of your talks with the IMF?

[Al-Bashir] The talks have not stopped. We are more knowledgeable about the ills and the state of our economy, and we will agree only to terms that are compatible with our economic policies. [passage omitted]

[Hanaqah] Foreign aid to Sudan has dwindled since the revolution. How do you explain that? And quite a few companies have begun to withdraw from prospecting for metals and oil, as well as from development. Why has this happened, and how can it be rectified?

[Al-Bashir] There is no evidence of these claims. Regarding withheld American aid, it is not possible to call it assistance. As for the withdrawal of companies, this is a claim that has yet to be substantiated. To my knowledge, last year saw more companies arrive here than depart.

[Hanaqah] The state of emergency and continued enforcement of nighttime curfews make the popularity of the regime in power look suspect to world public opinion. This holds true for any government anywhere in the world. What is the right alternative to curfews and emergency?

[Al-Bashir] The state of emergency and special measures have been necessitated by the country's special circumstances and deteriorating security in the pre-revolution period. Plunder, theft, and threats to human life even in the capital had become the order of the day. These emergency measures have been invoked in the best interests of the public, and have therefore been well received, with the ordinary man now reassured about his safety and money. If these measures have constrained certain outlaws, so much the better. There are no curbs on the ordinary citizen, and a permit is issued to whomsoever wishes to move about during the curfew hours, especially if he has a good reason. I would like to emphasize that these measures are meant to protect the public rather than the government, and that therefore they are not political. Once the reasons that occasioned their adoption cease to exist, these measures will be scrapped. [passage omitted]

[Hanaqah] What steps have been taken to improve ties with neighboring countries, especially since Zaire and Uganda are positively disposed toward your government?

[Al-Bashir] Relations have improved with Zaire and Uganda, and we have made strides with Kenya and the Central African Republic. We are working on an improvement of ties with Chad. Also, constructive contacts are under way to better ties with Ethiopia. Positive initiatives are legion. As for our relations with Egypt and Libya, they live up to our people's expectations: They are relations of cooperation, solidarity, and complementarity.

[Hanaqah] What seems to be hindering a Sudanese-Chadian thaw, and why do conflict and abuses crop up in Darfur every now and then?

[Al-Bashir] It is the factional rivalries in Chad that sometimes create tension in relations between the two friendly countries. Some of those who find themselves in political or tribal conflict with the authorities in Ndjamena seek asylum with us, Sudan having long and open borders with Chad. And do not forget the tribal overlapping on the borders. We have often enough made known our sincere desire to develop the ancient ties between the brotherly countries. We have never spared ourselves to help the Chadian brothers smooth over their differences so they may address development and reconstruction. We have also repeatedly said that we are not a party to the conflict and that we have no interest in seeing continued infighting in Chad, where stability and security are sorely needed.

[Hanaqah] How do you view foreign presence in Chad, given that you are against the Israeli presence in Ethiopia?

[Al-Bashir] We are against Israel's presence in Ethiopia, because it compromises Sudan as such and as the southern gateway of the Arab homeland. If the Israeli presence was within the context of cooperation between two states whose impact did not extend to a third nation, it would be a purely internal Ethiopian affair—and the same goes for Chad.

Finance Minister on Economic Recovery Program

EA2306181090 Khartoum SUNA in English 1017 GMT
22 Jun 90

[Text] Khartoum, 22 June (SUNA)—The three-year economic recovery programme has recommended the establishment of a social security fund with a capital of 3,000 million Sudanese pounds to ease the burden that will result from the restructuring of the economy, Finance Minister 'Abd al-Rahim Hamdi said. He told reporters that the fund's resources would be increased in the future to be as a beginning to wide social system.

Hamdi added that nationalisation of labour surplus in the context of the programme was not intended to dismiss the employees, explaining that programmes were worked out to benefit from the dormant energies.

Hamdi noted that the programme would reactivate the economy, directing the resources to the productive sectors and exports to realise self-sufficiency. He said that restructuring of the economy should be followed by procedures, notably the increase of the commodities' prices.

The minister added that plans in the programme would include establishment of commercial funds, pointing out the funds would be consolidated to provide finances for small farmers and craftsmen.

People's Defense Forces 'Open to All Citizens'

E.42406102590 Khartoum SUNA in English 1013 GMT
22 June 90

[All figures as received]

[Text] Khartoum, 22 June (SUNA)—The recruitment of the People's Defence Forces (PDF) is open to all citizens and will not be confined to a certain segment, said the member of the Revolution Command Council (RCC) Maj-Gen al-Tijani Adam al-Tahir.

Gen al-Tahir, addressing the celebrations marking the graduation of the second batch of the PDF which comprises 1,287 men, hailed the PDF role in defending the country's unity. The celebrations were also addressed by the commander of the People's Defence Forces, Brigadier Babikr 'Abd al-Mahmud, who indicated that there are more than ten camps of the PDF throughout the country. "Each camp receives three batches a year of 5,000 each," he explained. The commander has confirmed that some 1,500 persons will be recruited in the PDF.

'Ummah Party: No Reconciliation With Government

E.42406083490 (Clandestine) Radio of the Sudanese
People's Liberation Army in Arabic 2206 GMT 22 June 90

[Text] The 'Ummah Party's official spokesman outside Sudan, Mr. Mubarak al-Fadil, has denied media reports, quoting officials in the ruling National Islamic Front [NIF], on the possibility of a reconciliation between the 'Ummah Party and the government of Lieutenant General 'Umar al-Bashir and on communications regarding this matter alleged to have taken place between the 'Ummah Party leadership and Mr. Sadiq al-Mahdi.

Mr. Mubarak al-Fadil described this news as within the framework of NIF attempts to mislead public opinion and weaken the unity of the opposition by portraying it as lacking cohesion and stability. He reaffirmed the unity of the opposition and the firmness of the 'Ummah Party's positions, which aim at toppling the system and returning to democracy.

Kuwait

Council of Ministers Comments on U.S. Decision

LD2506210390 Kuwait Domestic Service in Arabic
1700 GMT 25 Jun 90

[Excerpts] The Council of Ministers held its weekly meeting this morning under the chairmanship of his highness the heir apparent and prime minister, Shaykh Sa'd al-Abdallah al-Salim al-Sabah. After the meeting, the minister of state for cabinet affairs, Dr. 'Abda al-Rahman Abdallah al-Awadi, said that after reading the Amiri decree on the formation of the government, his highness the heir apparent and prime minister delivered a speech in which he welcomed the ministers and expressed his thanks and appreciation for their positive response to the call of national duty by participating in shouldering responsibility. His highness commended the sincere efforts of the previous government, which had great effect on the realization of many positive achievements. [passage omitted]

The Council of Ministers discussed political affairs and reviewed the most significant developments in the Arab and international arenas. The council expressed its utmost regret and concern over the U.S. Administration's decision to suspend the dialogue with the PLO. It stressed the seriousness of the consequences of this step, and the destruction to the moderate Palestinian trend and encouragement to the Israeli oppression against the Palestinian people in the occupied territories it represented. While the council believes that that position is not in harmony with international peace efforts, it calls on the United States to reconsider its position in a way that confirms its serious role of positive contribution toward the achievement of a just peace in the Middle East region. [passage omitted]

Amir Receives Soviet Envoy, Gorbachev Message

LD2506132190 Kuwait Domestic Service in Arabic
1000 GMT 25 Jun 90

[Text] His highness the amir of Kuwait today at 0915 received his excellency the ambassador of the USSR to Kuwait who handed his highness, may God protect him, a letter from his excellency the president of the Soviet Union, Mikhail Gorbachev, in connection with Kuwaiti-Soviet relations, and the conception of the Soviet leadership of the great role entrusted to the Islamic conference Organization on the international scenes, in the capacity of his highness the amir as chairman of this organization.

Lebanese President Al-Hirawi Arrives 23 Jun

On First Leg of Arab Tour

LD2306095590 Kuwait KUNA in English 0828 GMT
23 Jun 90

[Text] Kuwait, June 23 (KUNA)—Lebanese President Ilyas al-Hirawi here Saturday morning on the first leg of his tour which will cover the United Arab Emirates, Qatar and Bahrain.

Al-Hirawi was received at Kuwait airport by the amir of Kuwait H.H. Shaykh Jabir al-Ahmad al-Sabah and other senior officials.

This is the first time for al-Hirawi to Kuwait since he was elected president last November.

Amir Confers With Al-Hirawi

LD2406151490 Kuwait KUNA in English 1002 GMT
24 Jun 90

[Text] Kuwait, June 24 (KUNA)—Visiting Lebanese President Ilyas al-Hirawi today held talks with His Highness the amir, Shaykh Jabir al-Ahmad at Bayan Palace focussing on developments on the Lebanese arena.

Minister of the Amiri Diwan Affairs Shaykh Khalid al-Ahmad stated the talks touched on ways to implement Al-Ta'if Accord which aims at achieving Lebanese national conciliation.

He added that the talks also dealt with current developments on the Arab and international arenas and ways to support joint Arab work in a bid to confront challenges facing the Arab nation.

A fraternal atmosphere of understanding and brotherly spirit had dominated the talks, Shaykh Khalid noted.

President al-Hirawi arrived here yesterday on a brief visit to Kuwait at the start of a Gulf tour.

Concludes Visit 24 Jun

LD2406170190 Kuwait KUNA in English 1346 GMT
24 Jun 90

[Text] Kuwait, June 24 (KUNA)—Lebanese President Ilyas al-Hirawi and the delegation accompanying him left here Sunday at the end of a short working visit to Kuwait.

His highness the amir, his highness the crown prince and Prime Minister Shaykh Sa'd al-'Abdallah, the commander of the national guard, deputy premier and foreign minister Shaykh Sabah al-Ahmad, ministers and governors and [word indistinct] officials were at the airport to see President al-Hirawi off.

Meanwhile, his highness and President al-Hirawi exchanged greeting messages on the occasion of the end of the visit.

Oman

Sultan Qabus Sends Condolences on Iranian Quake

JN2206134690 Muscat Domestic Service in Arabic
1300 GMT 22 Jun 90

[Excerpt] His Majesty Sultan Qabus Bin-Sa'id sent a cable of condolences to Hojjat ol-Eslam 'Ali Akbar Hashemi-Rafsanjani, president of the Islamic Republic

of Iran, over the victims of the earthquake which hit the Iranian city of Rasht and the neighboring areas. [passage omitted]

Qatar

Lebanese President Visits During Gulf Tour

Arrives in Doha 24 Jun

JN2406173990 Manama WAKH in English 1658 GMT 24 Jun 90

[Text] Doha, June 24 (GNA)—Lebanese President Ilyas al-Hirawi arrived here this afternoon on a two-day official visit to Qatar in the context of a Gulf tour.

The Lebanese president and his accompanying delegation was received by the Amir of Qatar Shaykh Khalifah Bin-Hamad Al Thani, Qatari ministers and undersecretaries as well as the Lebanese Ambassador to Qatar, George Syam.

Amir, Al-Hirawi Begin Talks

JN2506174190 Manama WAKH in English 1618 GMT 25 Jun 90

[Text] Doha, June 25 (GNA)—Official talks were held here today at the Amiri Diwan between the Qatari side led by the Amir of Qatar Shaykh Khalifah Bin Hamad Al Thani and the Lebanese side led by Lebanese President Ilyas al-Hirawi.

The talks were attended on the Qatari side by the Minister of Labour, Social Affairs and Housing 'Abd-al-Rahman Sa'id al-Dirham who is also the head of the mission of honour accompanying the Lebanese president.

On the Lebanese side the talks were attended by Lebanese Prime Minister Salim al-Huss who is also foreign and expatriate minister and the Lebanese ambassador in Doha Goerge Syam.

QATAR NEWS AGENCY said that the talks between the two sides dealt with Lebanese developments. The two leaders affirmed that the al-Ta'if agreement was the sole means of finding a settlement to the Lebanese crisis.

The two sides called on rival parties in Lebanon to cooperate in order to bring an end to the Lebanese crisis with a spirit of responsibility and openness in order to get Lebanon out of its plight.

Foreign Minister on Talks

JN2506174290 Manama WAKH in English 1625 GMT 25 Jun 90

[Text] Doha, June 25 (GNA)—Qatari Minister of Foreign Affairs Mubarak Ali Al Khatteer said the official round of talks which opened here today between H.H. the Amir Shaykh Khalifah Bin-Hamad Al Thani and the

President of Republic of Lebanon Ilyas al-Hirwai covered a review of the situations and events in the Lebanese, Arab and international arenas.

He said the State of Qatar would not hesitate to exert all possible efforts to restore calm and stability in Lebanon and consolidate sovereignty over all Lebanese territories. In this regard Qatar supports the efforts of the tripartite Arab committee and the al-Ta'if pact to which Lebanese parties have agreed in its regard as the best means guaranteeing Lebanon a way out of the crisis it faces.

The Qatari minister has also pointed out that Qatar also supports the establishment of an international fund for the reconstruction of Lebanon and backs as well international endeavors seeking to help Lebanon overcome its plight and restore the situation to normal in brotherly Lebanon.

Lebanon's Al-Huss Comments

JN2506193990 Manama WAKH in Arabic 1435 GMT 25 Jun 90

[Text] Doha, 25 Jun (WAKH)—Lebanese Prime Minister Dr. Salim al-Huss has criticized the U.S. decision to suspend dialogue with the PLO, saying the decision would have a negative effect on the Lebanese problem because every development in the region affects the situation in Lebanon.

At a news conference in Doha today, he referred to the current Israeli aggression against southern Lebanon and called for Arab help to pressure the international community into ending Israel's occupation of the south and to make Israel respond to UN Security Council Resolution No. 425 issued in 1978.

Dr. al-Huss announced that Lebanon would attend the Arab summit conference in Cairo next November to present its views on the overall Lebanese problem. He voiced hope that during the summit, Lebanon would take a major step toward a final solution with clear Arab support.

Dr. al-Huss denied reports that Lebanese President Ilyas al-Hirawi had demanded military aid during his recent tour of Egypt, Libya, and Tunisia. Dr. Al-Huss, who accompanied President al-Hirawi during his tour of the three countries, said the purpose of the tour was to explain the Lebanese problem and Lebanon's needs in general.

Regarding Lebanon's construction fund, Dr. al-Huss said that \$2 billion might not be sufficient for reconstructing Lebanon but, he said, it is a good initiative to rebuild Lebanon's infrastructure, pointing out that social and economic needs will have priority over plans to equip the Army.

He also said that the Arab Higher Tripartite Committee, which has drawn up formulas for the construction fund, will call next September for a meeting of all the contributors to decide the fund's future.

Dr. al-Huss then explained that efforts were under way to end the division that has hampered the implementation of the accord and the peace process, which started in al-Ta'if, to spread the government's legitimate authority over all Lebanese territory and to reunite the legitimate institutions and the country in general.

He said that finding ways to achieve that goal was the subject of Lebanon's contacts with the Arab and friendly countries through the Higher Tripartite Arab Committee. He praised Saudi efforts in the committee to help Lebanon overcome its troubles. In this respect, he said that Saudi King Fahd Bin-'Abd-al-'Aziz conveyed Lebanese concerns to the recent summit meeting in Baghdad.

The Lebanese prime minister expressed his appreciation for the positive Arab and international positions toward Lebanon and said there was a gap between political support and translating this support into a practical steps to save Lebanon from its crisis and end the current tragedy there. He explained that by mentioning this gap, he does not refer to the Arab world but to foreign support in general and the major powers' positions.

Dr. al-Huss reaffirmed that this was important because it is a practical formula that will enable the legitimate government to achieve its goals of uniting all institutions under the state's authority over all Lebanese territory. He added that the legitimate government has not yet applied this formula, expressing hope that it would be achieved in cooperation with Arab countries.

Regarding the mission of the French envoy in Lebanon and the Vatican initiative, Dr. al-Huss said that the French mission has nothing to do with the Vatican mission, adding that France supports the al-Ta'if agreement and the national accord document.

With respect to the Vatican, he said that the papal ambassador in Beirut had stressed the need to end the tragic situation in east Beirut as a prelude to a comprehensive solution to the overall situation and that such a solution could only take place through the legitimate government.

He added that the Vatican had not developed its position by supporting the al-Ta'if agreement and the accord document. He said this was viewed as a weakness in the Vatican's efforts, because the Lebanese legitimate government believes there can be no solution other than the al-Ta'if agreement and the accord document.

Dr. al-Huss expressed his satisfaction with the U.S. position on the Lebanese crisis, which supports the Lebanese legitimate government, the al-Ta'if agreement,

and the accord document. But he hoped that this support would be translated into practical steps to enable the legitimate government to achieve its goals.

Saudi Arabia

Earthquake Relief Airlifted to Iran 25 Jun

LD2506144390 Riyadh SPA in Arabic 1355 GMT
25 Jun 90

[Excerpt] Jeddah, 25 Jun (SPA)—Following the sad earthquakes which hit some towns and regions in Iran, the custodian of the two holy Mosques, King Fahd Bin-'Abd-al-'Aziz, may God protect him, sent a message of condolences to His Excellency the president of the Islamic Republic of Iran, 'Ali Hashemi-Rafsanjani.

An official spokesman immediately announced to SPA the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia's readiness to shoulder its role in assisting the victims of the earthquake.

Within this framework and in coordination with the quarters concerned in Iran, medical equipments and goods are being sent as of today—Monday—on 40 Saudi C130 aircraft to help the victims. [passage omitted]

Government Grants \$100 Million to Jordan

LD2506225490 Riyadh Domestic Service in Arabic
2000 GMT 25 Jun 90

[Text] A responsible source has made a statement to SPA today in which he said: In accordance with directives from the Custodian of the Two Holy Mosques King Fahd Bin-'Abd-al-'Aziz Al Sa'ud, the government of the Saudi Arabian Kingdom has given to the government of the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan the sum of \$100 million as special aid in order to enable fraternal Jordan to meet the financial crisis through which it is passing.

Prince Calls for Economic Sanctions Against U.S.

JN2506132690 Paris Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic
1200 GMT 25 Jun 90

[Text] Arab dismay and indignation continue as a result of the U.S. decision to suspend the [U.S.-Palestinian] dialogue. Prince Turki Bin-'Abd-al-'Aziz, brother of Saudi Monarch Fahd and former defense minister, has threatened that his country will impose economic sanctions on the United States if the latter does not resume its dialogue with the PLO.

He added that, if the U.S. Administration does not correct its position quickly, I will ask all Arab countries to do something.

Daily Criticizes U.S. Policy as 'Against Arabs'

JN2506162890 Baghdad INA in English 0905 GMT
25 Jun 90

[Text] Baghdad, June 25, INA—AL-JUMHURIYAH daily of Baghdad stressed that resolutions of the Baghdad Arab summit annoyed the United States and its ally Zionist entity and that any Arab victory or progress made by the Arab nation instigate the enemies to contain and minimize their importance.

A daily article published here today said that the American and Zionist annoyance of this historic achievement on the regional and international levels was prompted by a state of concern, fear and also vigilance despite the fact that the final statement of the summit called for the importance of stability and peace in the region.

The daily criticized the American stance and resolve to exercise an aggressive role against the Arabs and therefore placed itself amid an open political game represented by pushing the region to a state of explosion and backing the Zionists with all potentials.

Paper Assails 'Zionist' Plans, U.S. Complicity

JN2506163290 Baghdad INA in English 0920 GMT
25 Jun 90

[Text] Baghdad, June 25, INA—AL-QADISIYAH daily said that the Zionist plans could never be foiled only through shifting the Arab decision from the level of words to the level of deeds. [sentence as received]

In an article published today, the daily underlined the importance of the unanimous Arab action, taking into consideration all its dimensions.

The daily added that this fact constituted the essence of the pan-Arab security, pointing out that Iraq had been exerting every possible effort to firm up this approach.

It strongly condemned the U.S. Congress decision aimed at revoking the U.N. resolution considering Zionism as a form of racism, confirming that this decision was part of the Zionist plans trying to round up the Jews all around the world in an attempt to realize the dream of 'Greater Israel'.

AL-QADISIYAH daily said that the role the U.S. Administration played was inseparable from a hostile conspiracy targeting the Arab nation's will.

In an article published today, the daily said that the U.S. decision calling for rescinding the U.N. resolution was no more than a Zionist ruse, masterminded by the Jewish members of the U.S. Congress, to delude the world public opinion, especially after the continued acts of killing and suppression against the Palestinians in the occupied territories had exposed the ugly face of Zionism.

The daily referred to the Jews' efforts to fortify the Zionist state, drawing the attention to the fact that the Zionist entity had been adopting a policy taking different

forms in accordance with a strategy having certain goals that would eventually serve the Zionist interests.

It concluded that this did not mean that the Zionist policy could not be penetrated or paralyzed as Zionist mass media propagate in addition to some Arab circles supporting this notion, confirming that with no concerted action, the Arabs could never face this policy. [sentence as received]

Algerian Minister Visits, Comments on Oil Prices

JN2206134590 Baghdad INA in English 1140 GMT
22 Jun 90

[Text] Baghdad, June 22, INA—Algerian Mines Minister and chairman of current session of the OPEC's Ministerial Council has confirmed that developments in the international oil market necessitate implementing OPEC decisions taken in its recent meeting in Geneva in adopt [as received] real steps to tackle decline of oil prices.

In a press statement held here this morning Mr. Bous-sena said that OPEC was seriously seeking for tackling decline of oil prices confirming that this decline might effect and leave adverse reflections on OPEC's member states economies.

Mr. Boussena referred that OPEC is currently holding direct contacts with member states to hold its next ministerial conference at the end of July amid suitable circumstances for improving the prices and their stability besides discussing the output ceiling according to the decided quotas of the producing states.

Mr. Boussena ruled out holding an emergency meeting by the OPEC to tackle situation of current oil market referring that the OPEC is seriously seeking for applying its decisions adopted in the recent meeting in the Ministerial Council.

On volume of actual production of the member states Mr. Boussena made it clear that assessment refer to an increase in the current output of OPEC member states compared with the production ceiling endorsed in Geneva.

He expressed hope that the member states should observe dangers threatening them and they should abide by decisions of OPEC on output ceiling to frame proper formula capable of containing world changes, confirming that this matter might contribute to improving the world oil market and balance of the process.

He warned against gravity of continuity of the crisis as for the oil prices internationally and its impact on aggravation of economic problems referring that the price of oil had declined in the world oil market.

He expressed hope that next meeting of the OPEC's Ministerial Council would adopt a set of serious decisions aimed at drawing up established and stable policy for the output quotas and confirmation on abiding by it to cope with the international changes.

He added that he had held during his visit to Iraq talks with Minister of Oil 'Isam 'Abd-al-Rahim dealt with important issues from which the OPEC suffers and grave changes hit the international oil market besides means necessary for tackling them. [passage as received]

He confirmed that he would visit the United Arab Emirates, Kuwait, Saudi Arabia and Iran to debate changes in the world oil market with the aim of reaching at joint understanding to issues of output quotas and output ceiling devoted to the OPEC states.

Mr. Boussena left Baghdad this morning concluding a several day visit to Iraq.

Mr Boussena during his visit held talks with his opposite number 'Isam 'Abd-al-Rahim centered on current situation of oil market and had behaviours of some OPEC'S member states in exceeding their output quotas the matter which leads to decline of oil prices.

He was seen off at the airport by minister of oil and the Algerian ambassador in Baghdad.

Minister Leaves for Ankara To Discuss Euphrates

JN2506160490 Baghdad INA in Arabic 0815 GMT
25 Jun 90

[Text] Baghdad, 25 Jun (INA)—Dr. 'Abd-al-Wahhab Mahmud, minister of agriculture and irrigation, left Baghdad for Ankara this morning heading a delegation to participate in the second meeting of the tripartite ministerial committee among representatives of Iraq, Turkey, and Syria which will held there tomorrow, Tuesday.

The minister told INA that the tripartite committee will discuss the topic of sharing the Euphrates waters among the three countries during its two days of meetings.

Saddam Envoy To Visit Saudi Arabia, Kuwait

JN2506162290 Baghdad INA in Arabic 0950 GMT
25 Jun 90

[Text] Baghdad, 25 Jun (INA)—Sa'dun Hammadi, Revolution Command Council member, deputy prime minister, and President Saddam Husayn's envoy, left Baghdad for Saudi Arabia today on a tour that also includes Kuwait.

During the tour, the envoy will convey messages from President Saddam Husayn to his brothers King Fahd Bin-'Abd-al-'Aziz, custodian of the two holy mosques and Saudi Arabian monarch, and His Highness Shaykh Jabir al-Ahmad al-Sabah concerning the fraternal relations among the three Arab countries.

'Aziz Addresses Symposium on Michel 'Aflaq

JN2306132690 Baghdad INA in English 1215 GMT
23 Jun 90

[Text] Baghdad, June 23, INA—Activities of the national symposium on the first anniversary of the deceased Michel 'Aflaq's thoughts was opened here this morning.

Inauguration of the national symposium was attended by Messers: Yasir 'Arafat, president of the State of Palestine, Shibli al-'Aysami assistant secretary general of the Arab Ba'th Socialist Party and Taha Muhyi-al-Din Ma'ruf member of the Revolution Command Council and vice-president of the republic.

Representative of Comrade Saddam Husayn, member of the party's national leadership, comrade Tariq 'Aziz delivered an opening address at the beginning of which he said that he was honoured to welcome the participants on behalf of President Saddam Husayn, deputy secretary general of the Arab Ba'th Socialist Party.

Comrade 'Aziz said "it is probably one of the highest ways of commemorating a unique leader like Michel 'Aflaq is that adopted by this symposium in studying his concepts and their deep influence on history movement in our Arab homeland in the contemporary age."

Comrade 'Aziz has further added that "this ideology has come in an historic stage where there were ideologies and trends of thought, in addition to several and very strong experiments. It has appeared for some parties that Michel 'Aflaq's thought and approach will not be strong enough to survive and conflict with those ideologies and thoughts due to what they have possessed of strong means and influence. [no closing quotation mark as received]

Mr. Tariq 'Aziz further added that the profound and unique formula for the Arab nationality and the Arab national programme introduced by Michel 'Aflaq and enriched them by more deepness and comprehensiveness throughout fifty years emerge today amidst the big world developments in thought, experiments and systems. [sentence as received]

Mr. Tariq 'Aziz has also said that the challenges facing the Arab nation at present, the challenge of the big and rapid change in the international balances of power, the challenge of the new Jewish emigration towards occupied Palestine and its implied Zionist aggressive and expansionist programmes and the challenge against the Arabs by the imperialist and Zionist forces, confirm the importance of the national approach and its necessity for the Arab nation as being the weapon protecting her existence, safe-guarding her identity, providing her with potentials of renaissance and progress and enabling her to occupy the position she deserves in the world and continuing her historic mission.

Additional Details on Shamir Response to Bush

TA2606063690 Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew
26 Jun 90 p A1

[Report by political correspondent 'Aqiva Eldar]

[Text] In his message to U.S. President George Bush, Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir will not digress from the principles included in the Camp David accords and will offer the Palestinians full autonomy without committing himself to the nature of the permanent settlement. Consultations between the prime minister's bureau and the offices of Foreign Minister David Levi and Deputy Foreign Minister Binyamin Netanyahu continued yesterday in an effort to find a positive alternative to Secretary of State James Baker's proposals, to which Shamir was asked to respond. Shamir's response to Bush actually rejects these proposals, which deal with the inclusion of deportees and dual-residency East Jerusalem inhabitants in the Palestinian delegation.

Additional points that will be stressed in the message are:

- A demand that the United States pressure the Arab countries to reach a peaceful arrangement with Israel, claiming that the Palestinian problem is not the worst threat to peace in the region. Shamir will emphasize Iraq's accelerated militarization and President Saddam Husayn's threats.
- A demand that the talks on an arrangement for the territories be held simultaneously with peace talks between Israel and its neighbors.
- A declaration that the government will not settle immigrants in the territories.
- Objection to PLO participation in a dialogue with Israel under any terms.
- An expression of readiness to talk only to residents of the West Bank and the Gaza Strip, which several senior Cabinet ministers have already begun to do.
- Objection to the inclusion of Jerusalem Arabs in the dialogue.

Levi Discharged; Comments on U.S., Egypt Dialogue

TA2506152990 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew
1500 GMT 25 Jun 90

[Text] This afternoon Foreign Minister David Levi was discharged from Ha'emeq Hospital in 'Afula, where he was hospitalized for 12 days for a coronary. His physicians instructed him to take a rest and to stop smoking.

Our correspondent Hayim Hecht reports that in a news conference at the hospital, David Levi said that the topmost item on his agenda is to launch a dialogue with the United States and Egypt free of tension, suspicion, and political wrath. He disclosed that a response to the U.S. President and the secretary of state has been drafted, and that it includes principles for the resumption of the peace process.

Urges 'Yes' to Baker Plan

TA2606093390 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew
0900 GMT 26 Jun 90

[Text] Foreign Minister David Levi said that Israel should say yes to U.S. Secretary of State James Baker's five-point initiative, but no to his questions regarding deportees and the Arab residents of East Jerusalem.

Our political correspondent Arye Golan reports that while speaking at a news conference, the foreign minister said that the identity of the deportees would be determined by the PLO, and this would fall under the concept of the right of return, which is not acceptable to Israel. Were the Arabs of Jerusalem to participate in the Palestinian delegation, Jerusalem would become the key topic on the agenda, and this would cause the failure of the negotiations.

Responding to the U.S. State Department spokeswoman's remarks that Levi would be welcome in the United States anytime, although not formally invited, Levi said he had not asked for an open invitation. A meeting between Israeli and U.S. officials will be held when necessary and in due time.

Shamir Says U.S. Decision Aids Peace Effort

TA2506134090 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew
1300 GMT 25 Jun 90

[Text] The prime minister believes that the suspension of talks between the United States and the PLO will contribute to promoting peace efforts. Speaking before the Knesset's Foreign Affairs and Defense Committee, Mr. Shamir said that Israel will now be able to discuss an arrangement based on the Camp David accords—namely autonomy first, followed by comprehensive negotiations—with the moderates in the territories.

In reply to a question by our correspondent Ze'ev Kohen on whether his letter to the U.S. President would discuss deportees or East Jerusalem Arabs, the prime minister said that his letter would respond to all the points President Bush had raised, but refused to divulge any more details.

Mr. Shamir also said that deliberations on ways to handle the intifadah will be held in the next few weeks, and decisions will be reached swiftly.

As for aliyah matters, he said that terrorist organizations are constantly plotting attacks against new immigrants, and are even being financed by the PLO. He claimed that 60 percent of Soviet immigrants arrive via Budapest, and neither Hungary nor Poland are intimidated by terrorist threats.

[Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew at 1230 GMT on 25 June reports that "Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir said that Minister Sharon's remarks yesterday that new immigrants are not being directed to the territories are nothing new. This has been the government's long-standing policy. At the

same time, he emphasized that Israel does not view East Jerusalem as part of the territories. Speaking at the Knesset's Foreign Affairs and Defense Committee, the prime minister reported that in the past six months 45,000 Soviet Jews had immigrated to Israel, 6,700 of them this month. We expect the influx of immigrants to increase in the next six months, he said."]

Shamir Rejects UN Offer, Stresses U.S. Role

TA2506172090 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew
1605 GMT 25 Jun 90

[Text] Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir told Jean-Claude Aime, the UN envoy who is currently visiting Israel, that Israel envisages an important role for the United States, and asks it to help us promote peace. The above came in response to the UN secretary general's proposal included in a message his aide brought. Perez de Cuellar suggested that the United Nations contribute toward calming the situation in the area. Our political correspondent Arye Golan reports:

No, thank you. This is the gist of Jerusalem's reaction to the message Jean-Claude Aime delivered from UN Secretary General Perez de Cuellar. Politely, and in a very friendly manner, Mr. Shamir thanked his UN guest, who conveyed an offer by that international body to assist in calming the tension in the region. We too, are not happy with the prevailing atmosphere in the Middle East, said the prime minister, and we would like to improve the situation and the atmosphere. Toward that end, Israel is prepared to pursue the peace process along the lines of its May 1989 peace initiative. We are ready to immediately enter into negotiations with the Arab countries and the Palestinians in Judea, Samaria, and Gaza.

At this juncture, ignoring Perez de Cuellar's offer of help, Prime Minister Shamir emphasized the United States' important role in helping promote the peace process. We want America's help, and are ready to cooperate with it in implementing our peace initiative, said Shamir. The guest, if he so wished, could deduce the no to the United Nations from the yes to the United States.

A mere 15 minutes later, the UN visitor paid a visit to Yosi Ben-Aharon, the director general of the Prime Minister's Office. The latter assured him that Israel would make his mission, aimed at getting a close view of the situation in the territories, easier.

U.S. Still Seen Favoring PLO Role in Process

TA2506161690 Tel Aviv M'ARIV in Hebrew
25 Jun 90 p A14

[Commentary by Moshe Zaq: "The Meeting—in Jerusalem"]

[Text] Justice Minister Dan Meridor was surprised by the excited reaction in Washington to the public offer of the prime minister and defense minister that talks begin immediately with the Palestinians in Judea, Samaria, and Gaza on elections prior to the establishment of the autonomy.

Washington's ire is hard to fathom: Is the defense minister forbidden to talk to Palestinians outside the channel acceptable to the United States, Egypt, and the PLO? Secretary of State Baker tried to answer this. En route to Berlin he argued that for 22 years the Israelis have failed to talk to the Palestinians. Today, too, it is impossible to talk to them without the PLO's blessing. Bingo! The cat is out of the bag! Barely a day after the suspension of the dialogue with the PLO, the Bush administration still adhered to the erroneous assumption that no settlement of the conflict could happen without prior deliberations with that terrorist organization.

It is this mistaken assumption that constitutes the basis for the administration's rejection of all initiatives for a direct dialogue with the Palestinians of Judea, Samaria, and Gaza; this is the reason why it is asking Israel to say "yes" to Baker according to the terms worked out by the United States and Egypt, which represents the PLO. Secretary Baker is prepared to promise Israel that he will not obligate it to conduct negotiations with the PLO, but as he publicly admitted that there can be no settlement without the PLO, not only is he promising that the dialogue with the PLO would renew, but he is furthermore outlining the nature of these negotiations in the Cairo meeting: The Israelis will sit opposite a Palestinian delegation, but the negotiations will take place behind the scenes, between the United States and Egypt, with the latter conveying the PLO's approval, and the former Israel's positive responses.

To erase all doubts regarding the framework for the negotiations, Washington invited the Egyptian foreign minister to discuss terms for the resumption of the dialogue with the PLO.

Dr. Nabil Sha'ath, the liaison between 'Arafat and Mubarak, said some time ago that a senior U.S. diplomat had told him the United States would not pressure Israel as long as the Palestinians do not bite. Dr. Sha'ath interpreted this to mean an acceptance of an escalation in the armed struggle.

I am inclined to believe that this diplomat, who is Jewish, did not mean escalation in terror, although the PLO leadership regarded it as a nodding approval for just that. The praise administration officials lavished on 'Arafat for being "Miss Goody-Two-Shoes from Tunis" who holds terrorism in check worried him: He thought they would no longer pay attention to his demands. He therefore decided to step up acts of terror—before the U.S. suspended the dialogue, not as a reaction to the temporary halt.

President Bush contends that the dialogue with the PLO yielded desirable results, which is why he wants it to continue. 'Arafat is no less interested in that. After all, it was thanks to the dialogue that he was able to wring a concession from the United States. The Israeli Government challenged this U.S.-PLO understanding, as relayed at the time by Yitzhaq Rabin after a meeting with James Baker in Washington. In that document of

understanding it is written, among other things: The PLO will not insist that the Israeli-Palestinian meeting be held under the auspices of the United Nations. If the United States is invited, however, the PLO will demand that other members of the Security Council be invited as well. And this: The PLO will authorize the Palestinian delegation to launch negotiations on the basis of the 10 points. Israel rejected this "understanding" which was reached behind its back, but 'Arafat still scored a political achievement: that of recognition of his important role in any arrangement.

Israel's objection to this U.S.-PLO dialogue bred the Baker formula, empowering Israel to reject candidates for the Palestinian delegation from a list of names that would be submitted to it for approval. Yet the U.S. concession was corroded by Baker's remarks regarding the PLO's special status in any settlement. This point surely did not escape Yitzhak Shamir when he wrote his response to President Bush.

Even though Bush urged Shamir to pick up from "where we left off," there is no need to start at the point which led to the dissolution of the Cabinet. The President's advisers no doubt realize that the moment Shamir says "yes" to the inclusion of East Jerusalem Arabs in the Palestinian delegation, he will no longer have a Cabinet, and it will be necessary to call new elections, thus causing further delays in the political process.

The government sees itself committed to the previous Cabinet's acceptance of the Cairo meeting, although there is room for new ideas, such as a meeting in Jerusalem with Palestinians from Judaea, Samaria, and Gaza with the participation of U.S. and Egyptian representatives. Another idea that can be examined is an invitation to the "national leadership" in Judaea, Samaria, and Gaza to come to the negotiating table in Jerusalem after proving that it has the power to stop the intifadah for at least six months. Yet the United States cannot twist Israel's arm and make it accept indirect negotiations with the PLO according to the guidelines stipulated in its agreement with Egypt, or directly with the PLO [sentence as published]. If it was ordained as an absolute must to talk to the PLO, there would be no need for mediators, yet acceptance of negotiations with the PLO means acceptance in advance of a Palestinian state—something which even the United States does not support. Israel is under no obligation to chime in and say "amen" to every friendly superpower's tactical mistake. We must not lose the hope that there are alternative ways to peace.

U.S. Officials Urge Steps Towards Palestinians

TA2606090790 Jerusalem THE JERUSALEM POST
in English 26 Jun 90 pp 1, 12

[Report by diplomatic correspondent David Makovsky]

[Text] In the aftermath of the U.S. suspension of talks with the PLO last week, the U.S. is considering asking the government to quietly readmit intifada leaders who have been expelled, Israeli sources said yesterday.

"There are a number of things that Israel can do that do not involve negotiations," one U.S. official said.

The U.S. stresses that such actions do not substitute for movement in the peace process, but they could be helpful in reducing tension at a time when Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir has said an upswing in violence can be expected.

Among other things, the U.S. would like Defence Minister Moshe Arens to open all West Bank universities. It is believed the U.S. also wants Arens to review Israel's rules for the estimated 1,000 Palestinians in administrative detention.

"Arens is the minister of the occupied territory. He can do a lot. He made a gesture to the right, now he can make steps towards the Palestinians," one U.S. official said, referring to Arens' plans to improve safety on roads for settlers living in the territories.

Senior Defence Ministry officials said they have yet to receive any such American requests, but that a thorough review of current procedures is underway, as at the start of any new government. The officials noted, however, that Palestinian universities are closed due to security precautions. Recently, the Arab College of Health Professions in al-Birah was reopened.

Readmitting deportees to the territories would have a dual implication, sources said. It would both be a gesture to Palestinians living in the territories and could dilute the political controversy surrounding the inclusion of deportees in any future Israeli-Palestinian talks.

Specifically, Shamir opposed a U.S.-brokered formula that would readmit a deportee to the territories immediately before he departed to Cairo talks.

The U.S. sees Arens as a pivotal figure in the process. In addition to his formal responsibilities, he is acutely aware of the damage that allegations of human rights violations does to Israel's image abroad from his stint as foreign minister. The U.S. also views Arens as one of the most moderate figures in the current right-wing Likud government.

U.S. 'Stick' Policy Said To Influence Government

TA2606110090 Tel Aviv YEDI'OT AHARONOT
in Hebrew 26 Jun 90 p 2

[Commentary by Shim'on Schiffer: "The Stick Did Its Job"]

[Text] Who says the intransigent government is inattentive to criticism or unresponsive to threats?

From the day it was established, it has been thrashed by Western statesmen and the Soviet leader, who threatened to impose limitations on Jewish emigration. This week TIME suggested that the U.S. Administration clobber Shamir himself. The British ECONOMIST pointed to U.S. aid money as a possible effective whip to use against Israel.

But now the past 48 hours have shown that Jerusalem got the message.

Construction and Housing Minister Ari'el Sharon was the first to set the tone. In a declaration that amazed many, he said Israel would not settle the Soviet immigrants in the territories.

Foreign Minister David Levi yesterday called for the resumption of the dialogue with Egypt and the United States.

Prime Minister Shamir undertook, in a series of public messages, as well as in the message he will send to the U.S. President this week, to adhere to the previous Cabinet's initiative and hold elections in the territories.

What does all this prove?

—That the Shamir-Levi-Sharon government does not want to call it quits with the whole world. They merely want to reach the 1992 elections safely.

—That the stick waved by the United States did its job. Jerusalem understood that it must propose something of substance.

On the whole, after a period in which Israel and the United States behaved like a couple who decided to wash their dirty linen in public, Washington and Jerusalem are signaling now that perhaps it might be a good idea to try reconciliation and give things another shot. It will not be long before Foreign Minister David Levi goes to Washington.

Further on Sharon Remarks on Immigrant Settlement
TA2506200490 Jerusalem THE JERUSALEM POST
in English 25 Jun 90 p 1, 10

[Report by Jerusalem reporter Herb Keinon]

[Excerpt] Housing Minister Ari'el Sharon, whose appointment to head the aliya cabinet raised concerns that he would use his post to settle Soviet immigrants in the territories, said yesterday that he has no such intentions.

"Immigrants will not be settled beyond the Green Line. Israel has a policy of settling immigrants in the Galilee, the Negev, Wadi 'Ara and the centre of the country, but not in Jewish settlements in Judaea and Samaria, despite their strategic importance," Sharon told the Jewish Agency's Board of Governor's meeting in Jerusalem.

This was Sharon's first such declaration since taking over his new positions.

Sharon became Housing Minister and aliya cabinet coordinator shortly after Soviet President Mikhail Gorbachev warned that the USSR would curb emigration if it did not receive assurances from Israel that the immigrants would not be settled in the territories. Sharon had previously said that neither the U.S. nor the USSR needed such assurances because they knew that the immigrants were not being settled beyond the Green Line.

But yesterday Sharon changed his mind and issued his clear-cut statement. Because of all the problems that would arise if the government decided to settle immigrants in the territories, he said, such a policy would not be enacted. "It is forbidden to lose this historic opportunity, even if we are correct," Sharon said.

"The new national government hasn't changed for a minute," he added. "It recognizes the strategic importance of the settlements in Judaea, Samaria and Gush Qatif (in the Gaza Strip). This policy will continue, but it is not connected to absorption."

Sharon warned that if this aliya wave fails, there will be no others following in its wake. He said that it is necessary to create the right atmosphere for absorbing the immigrants, and that the time has come to stop arguing over authority. "This is not a question of prestige; it is a unique national campaign that is above any political considerations."

Sharon said that in the next two days the Israel Lands Administration [ILA] will be moved to his ministry from the Agriculture Ministry. Until now, Shas [Torah Observing Sephardim] had been holding up the move, demanding that the ILA be transferred to the Interior Ministry it controls.

Addressing the problem of young couples unable to rent affordable flats, Sharon said that it is imperative to find housing solutions for them and for recently demobilized soldiers, as well as for the new immigrants. "Otherwise we will face an internal problem that will be very difficult to deal with."

Sharon said he has come to an agreement with Finance Minister Yitzhak Moda'i concerning the selling of government assets to pay for the massive building programme. He called for greater coordination between the Jewish Agency and the aliya cabinet, and said that two Agency representatives will serve in the aliya cabinet. [passage omitted]

[HA'ARETZ in Hebrew on 25 June, in a page 1 report by Gid'on Alon, quotes Sharon as telling the Jewish Agency Assembly: We do not have a policy of directing immigrants to settle beyond the Green Line.

Sharon went on to say: Everybody knows my views on settlement, but we do not want to cause harm to the Soviet immigrants and to the historic aliyah process from there, and we understand the importance of preventing any delay in this aliyah.]

USSR Envoys Say Gorbachev Awaits 'Guarantees'
TA2606092490 Tel Aviv YEDI'OT AHARONOT
in Hebrew 26 Jun 90 p 2

[Report by political correspondent Shim'on Schiffer and Knesset correspondent Hayim Shibi]

[Excerpt] Senior diplomats in the Soviet Embassy in Washington have urged Israel to take Mikhail Gorbachev's warnings on limiting the number of exit visas to be issued to Soviet Jews seriously.

The Soviet diplomats told Moshe Arad, Israel's ambassador to the United States, that Gorbachev is waiting for substantial guarantees from Israel that it will not settle new immigrants in the territories, and that he is being subjected to heavy pressure from the Arab countries to make the exit of Jews difficult. [passage omitted]

[In a related report in Tel Aviv MA'ARIV in Hebrew on 26 June, Ran Dagoni reports on pages A1 and 2 that "a senior Soviet official" told MA'ARIV "last night": If indeed Minister Sharon promised not to settle Jews in the territories, this is a positive declaration that we welcome. It certainly is the type of declaration we awaited. The report adds that the official said that "it is necessary to find out whether the declaration includes East Jerusalem as well." He said: Not to settle new immigrants in the occupied territories is a correct move, but what is happening in East Jerusalem? That point, too, must be emphasized.]

Lands Administration Given to Housing Ministry

TA2606051590 Jerusalem Domestic Service in English
0400 GMT 26 Jun 90

[Text] The Knesset last night approved the transfer of the Israel Lands Administration from the Agriculture Ministry to the Housing Ministry. To the chagrin of the Labor faction, Agudat Yisra'el Knesset members joined the coalition in voting for the move.

Ne'eman Says Tehiya's Settlement Goals Unchanged

TA2506162490 Tel Aviv Educational Television
in Hebrew 1400 GMT 25 Jun 90

[Interview with Professor Yuval Ne'eman, minister of science and technology, and energy and infrastructure, by Rafi Reshef—live]

[Excerpt] [passage omitted]

[Reshef] Professor Ne'eman, with your permission let me ask you one practical question. You are, after all, a new member in the Cabinet. Supposing, for the sake of argument, that a year goes by and nothing happens in Judea, Samaria, and Gaza in terms of the fleshing out of existing settlements, or the building of new settlements. What then?

[Ne'eman] Why make improbable assumptions?

[Reshef] Still, supposing this happens.

[Ne'eman] As you know, my participation in the Cabinet was conditioned upon, among other things, such a thing not happening.

[Reshef] But what if it does happen?

[Ne'eman] Besides, I am convinced that many other members of the Cabinet have made a similar stipulation.

[Reshef] Hypothetical though this may be, what if it does happen?

[Ne'eman] You know, I do not think this will happen. There is no doubt that Tehiya's aims and goals have not changed one iota since joining the government. By the way, with respect to the Soviet Jewry, even six months ago we refrained from raising a hue and cry that they should be directed to settle in Judea, Samaria, and Gaza, because we are a responsible movement. Those who wish to portray us as unrealistic are the leftists in Israel. They always try to describe us as people who would risk everything for the attainment of some illusory dream. We are the most realistic people in Israel's Zionist reality. We will lead it to a situation where there is settlement, and we will also make sure that there is aliyah.

[Reshef] Thank you very much, Prof. Yuval Ne'eman.

EC Expected To Adopt New Israel Policy

PM2606094090 London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT
in Arabic 23 Jun 90 pp 1-2

[Abd-al-Hamid al-Yahyawi report: "European Source Tells AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT: Dublin Summit Will Adopt New Position Toward Israel Because Of Its Rejection Of Peace Efforts"]

[Excerpts] Brussels, AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT—At the meeting held in Luxembourg to prepare for the European summit to be held in Dublin the day after tomorrow the EC Foreign Ministers Council discussed Israel's violation of human rights principles in the occupied territories.

AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT has learned that a working paper prepared by the EC foreign ministers in that regard, which will be presented to the European heads of state and prime ministers in Dublin, will enable the Council to issue a joint statement by the 12 states condemning Israel's expansionist policy which rejects any proposal for a peaceful settlement in the Middle East.

A high-ranking European source has told AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT: The EC will adopt a new position in its relations with Israel, now that all the doubts about the new Israeli Government's desire to establish peace have been confirmed.

He added: European-Israeli relations will be harmed by the extremist Shamir government's intransigence and its refusal to accept U.S. Secretary of State James Baker's proposals to hold direct negotiations with the Palestinians. [passage omitted]

The European source told AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT that the European working paper, which the EC Foreign Ministers Council has prepared, asserts the Western

European states' intention to intervene with the U.S. Government to restore the U.S.-Palestinian dialogue. [passage omitted]

IDF Calls for More Accurate Intifadah Reporting

TA2606102890 Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew
26 Jun 90 p A1

[Report by Eytan Rabin]

[Text] An internal paper recently drafted in the IDF [Israel Defense Force] recommends that the chief of staff and the defense establishment change the criteria for reporting incidents in the territories in order to portray the daily occurrences in Judaea, Samaria, and Gaza more accurately.

The following are the main recommendations included in the detailed report drawn up by the committee:

- Reports from the Gaza District often do not properly reflect the actual events and thus provide the General Staff and the political echelon with a distorted picture.
- Most of the intifadah incidents involve stone throwings and barricades.
- The committee recommends changing the reporting method while applying common characteristics to gauge the level of unrest in Judaea, Samaria, and Gaza, thereby allowing for a standardized method of assessing the events in the different areas.

Olmert Unveils Aid Package for Arab Sector

TA2606103590 Jerusalem: THE JERUSALEM POST
in English 26 Jun 90 p 2

[Report by David Rudge]

[Text] Shefar'am—Israeli Arab leaders yesterday cautiously welcomed a proposed NIS [new Israeli shekel] 850 million proposal to gradually improve towns and villages over a 10-year period.

The aid package was unveiled by Health Minister Ehud Olmert, who was responsible for minority affairs in the previous national unity government, at a press conference on Sunday.

Emphasis would be put on installing sewage networks, building new classrooms, improving streets and constructing community centres.

But the bulk of the money, around NIS 500 million, would be set aside for resolving land disputes with Beduin tribes and families, mainly in the Negev.

Olmert stressed that the programme, which has yet to be approved by the government, is not expected to put an end to existing political grievances, and would certainly not turn Israeli Arabs into staunch Zionists.

Nevertheless, he said, we have an obligation to cater for the welfare and well-being of all of our citizens. Improving the quality of life in the Arab sector, he added, would also help remove a growing source of frustration.

Ibrahim Nimr Husayn, chairman of the National Committee of Heads of Arab Local Councils, said the majority of council heads welcomed the proposal in principle.

"We welcome any plans aimed at redressing the imbalance between Arabs and Jews in the country and helping Israeli Arabs achieve equality. The minister, by drafting this report, is admitting that Israeli Arabs suffer from discrimination. He shows he understands some of the problems and is willing to help," said Husayn, who is also mayor of Shefar'am in the Galilee.

Levi To Consider Any New Egyptian Peace Plan

TA2506172390 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew
1605 GMT 25 Jun 90

[Interview with Foreign Minister David Levi by Hayim Hecht at Ha'emeq Hospital in 'Afula just before Levi's discharge on 25 June—recorded]

[Excerpt] [passage omitted] [Hecht] After the formalities of leaving the hospital, Minister Levi addressed political issues. My primary concern in the Foreign Ministry, says David Levi, will be an effort to revive the political dialogue with the United States and Egypt, a dialogue which will be free of anger, tension, or suspicion.

[Levi] Israel should not be surprised by actions taking place behind its back, just as the United States should be reassured that whatever it agrees to with Israel is an agreement we will honor together.

[Hecht] Mr. Minister, an Egyptian minister is currently visiting Washington. He has reportedly brought new ideas. Will Israel also have new ideas, apart from the previous Cabinet's initiative?

[Levi] First of all, the initiative itself is the sole existing peace initiative. If Egypt has new ideas, we will be glad to examine them and discuss them. I sent a message in this vein to the Egyptian foreign minister a few days ago, saying that if Egypt has ideas, we will be prepared to consider every idea seriously and with an open-minded approach—naturally if the dialogue is free of tension or political ill-feelings.

[Hecht] The foreign minister called on the countries in the region to come to peace talks. He said he would likewise be happy to receive the Arabs of Eretz Yisra'el, as he called them, on the condition that their hands are clean of terrorism.

Will Faysal al-Husayni, for example, be among the guests?, the minister was asked. His diplomatic response: There are no lists yet.

Minister Levi left Ha'emeq Hospital for Jerusalem, where he will rest in a hotel for a few days to spare him the long commute to Bet She'an.

Basyuni Says PLO Necessary Partner in Dialogue

TA2506080390 Jerusalem THE JERUSALEM POST in English 25 Jun 90 pp 1, 10

[Report by Ben Lynfield and David Makovsky]

[Text] It will be impossible to convene the U.S.-brokered Israeli-Palestinian talks in Cairo if the American dialogue with the PLO remains suspended, Egyptian Ambassador to Israel Muhammad Basyuni said yesterday.

In an interview with THE JERUSALEM POST, Basyuni suggested that the U.S. cannot expect Egypt to win PLO approval for peace talks while Washington fails to maintain its own direct contacts with the PLO.

"It is impossible to start the Cairo dialogue without a green light from the PLO," Basyuni said. "It is impossible to start Israeli-Palestinian talks while freezing the U.S.-PLO dialogue.

"Israel tried for 23 years to find local leaders with whom to negotiate and didn't succeed," Basyuni said, echoing an identical comment last week by U.S. Secretary of State James Baker. "You can't achieve peace without a partner. The PLO is a fact, you can't avoid it."

Basyuni urged Washington to resume the dialogue even if PLO leader Yasir 'Arafat does not clearly denounce Abu-al-'Abbas' [Muhammad 'Abbas] abortive seaborne attack last month. "I think 'Arafat has already done his best and you can't ask him to do more," Basyuni said.

"Why say only that the PLO didn't condemn the attack? Why forget that 'Arafat says that Israel can live in peace and security? He renounced terror and has not been involved in any kind of terror since December 1988," Basyuni said.

Israeli officials, however, contend that 'Arafat's mainstream Fatah faction has been involved in at least 13 terror attacks since December, 1988.

"I think all of the radicals and extremists on both sides are having parties now (that the dialogue has been suspended) because they don't want peace. They wanted to stop the dialogue," Basyuni said.

"To stop terror without the peace process is impossible. We need to remove the reasons for terror, which does not mean condoning it. Without removing the causes of terror, there will be more attempts."

Regarding recent inaccurate Egyptian media reports of war threats coming from Israel, Basyuni urged quick Palestinian-Israeli talks as a means of defusing the tense regional atmosphere. "The only way to calm this situation is to start talking," he said. "Anyone who thinks he

can play with time and maintain the status quo is leading the area to war and violence."

In an apparent reference to the relative strength of moderates and radicals in the Arab world, he added: "If you do not respond to the voice of peace then you are strengthening the voice of war and proving that the voice of peace is wrong and the voice of war is right."

Basyuni sharply criticized efforts to avoid the Cairo talks envisaged in the Baker plan and to shift the diplomatic focus to the original May 1989 Shamir initiative. "Don't ask me to go back to square one," he said. "You want the Palestinians to come on their knees raising their hands. But to solve the problem you must put in the minimum demands of the other side.

"If you say that Jordan is Palestine and that not one inch (of the territories will be returned) and that the only thing is autonomy, then you are wasting your time and our time.

"We did a lot of work since the Shamir initiative was announced," he added, pointing to President Husni Mubarak's request for 10 clarifications to Prime Minister Shamir's plan for West Bank elections. Israel has yet to reply to the Egyptian queries of last summer, he said, just as the U.S. is waiting for a response to Baker's formula for the composition of the Palestinian delegation to Cairo talks.

"Don't tell us that it's a new government, so we need 100 days (grace period). This is not something new. It's your (plan)."

Basyuni discounted Shamir's contention that no Arab countries besides Egypt are willing to talk peace with Israel, saying that Syria's Hafiz al-Asad and other Arab leaders are willing to negotiate within a multilateral context at an international peace conference. Shamir, however, views an international conference as anathema and has called for bilateral talks with Syria.

Basyuni said that Foreign Minister David Levi would be welcome in Cairo, but stressed Egypt's desire that he bring new ideas to push the peace process forward. But there are no immediate plans for a visit by Levi, he said.

"We are waiting for David Levi and wish him a speedy recovery (from his heart attack)," Basyuni said. "I expect a lot from him. He is intelligent and a self-made man."

Milo Discusses New Police Methods in Jerusalem

TA2506180190 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1605 GMT 25 Jun 90

[Interview with Police Affairs Minister Roni Milo by Hayim Zissowitz in the Knesset studio—live]

[Excerpt] [passage omitted] [Zissowitz] Minister Milo, the feeling is that the terrorist organizations have recently carried out an inordinate number of attacks in Jerusalem.

[Milo] Jerusalem has always been a central and important place for those who wish to harm us: It is both the capital of Israel and the site of the holy places. We are, no doubt, witnessing an increase in the terrorist attacks both in Jerusalem and in other places. Jerusalem may be a bit more sensitive because there are many points of friction in that city between Jews and Arabs in the neighborhoods where Jewish residents live in close proximity to Arab villages. There is East Jerusalem, the Old City—which is part of Jerusalem—where there have also been problems.

[Zissowitz] The feeling, however, is that there is a guiding hand in all this, that it is more than a mere coincidence that these acts have been concentrated in Jerusalem recently.

[Milo] Definitely. Jerusalem is a high priority for the bodies that want to harm us. Nonetheless, we must remember that we have problems in other places as well, be they the Ta'anakh region in the north, where fields are set afire; or in other places in the country in the south and the north, where we must also contend with the serious problems brought upon us by the era of the intifadah.

[Zissowitz] You met with police commanders in Jerusalem today. Was this a routine meeting or a special working session?

[Milo] The meeting with the police command echelon and the senior officers in Jerusalem today was exceptional, in light of the recent special problems we have had in Jerusalem. We discussed the issue of Silwan and what happened there, and the lessons that should be drawn from those events, issues related to Neve Ya'akov, where we noted that neighborhood's tough problems and the local residents' justified resultant anger; we also raised the subject of Armon Hanetziv, the site of further problems, as we saw when the boy was stabbed at the bus stop. We now have very good reasons to institute special deployment in Jerusalem to handle the problems properly, and we are likewise justified in employing unusual ways and means to tackle those problems.

[Zissowitz] Such as?

[Milo] Naturally, I would not like to be specific. Let me just emphasize some points which I consider to be very important for the inhabitants of Jerusalem: First of all, we will make sure police and border police deployment in various parts of Jerusalem is increased. This will involve Neve Ya'akov, Armon Hanetziv, and other problem neighborhoods, as well as other difficult areas in the Jerusalem sector, which is broad and problematic. Second, we intend to take special measures. We are currently establishing a new police unit that will be called Gid'onim, which will take unusual measures to contend with the problems we must face in that city, Jerusalem, the capital. Also, we have new ideas and measures which

I do not wish to detail, but which we will definitely apply to handle the tough problem which justifiably....

[Zissowitz, interrupting] Are all these actions to be implemented in the near future?

[Milo] Definitely. We are talking about immediate implementation because the problems are pressing and require immediate attention. We cannot allow a situation in which residents of Neve Ya'akov, for example, have to live with stonings and Molotov cocktail incidents; nor can we allow the inhabitants of Giv'at Ze'ev, Armon Hanetziv, or any other place in Jerusalem, not to live safely and securely, as they have every right to live.

[Zissowitz] Will the police apply firmer measures as well?

[Milo] I think the police are operating the way they should. The curfew that was imposed on Silwan late last week signals that the police will not take a business-as-usual attitude, and will never cease taking all necessary measures—including very stiff measures—to guarantee security and order in Jerusalem.

[Zissowitz] Minister Milo, we have recently seen the residents of Armon Hanetziv and Neve Ya'akov retaliate individually. What do you think of this activity?

[Milo] I think these operations are unnecessary and do not help resolve the problem, sometimes they even exacerbate it. I would like to appeal to all the inhabitants of Jerusalem, particularly in the problem neighborhoods: Instead of directing the anger—which I can understand—at certain elements in the region, you should do more about enlisting in the Civil Guard. Let them enlist in that force, which operates in an orderly fashion, in full coordination with and on behalf of the police, and which is also coordinated with the border police. We can definitely handle Jerusalem's problems at present, if the residents play an active role and support our means of handling the problem of how to ensure quiet and safety in Jerusalem. This is possible, if we act together and devote our efforts to solving the problem—as well we should.

[Zissowitz] Thank you very much, Police Affairs Minister Roni Milo.

Poll Says Rabin Most Popular for Prime Minister

TA2206092590 Tel Aviv HADASHOT in Hebrew
22 Jun 90 p 1

[Text] Yitzhaq Rabin's popularity has registered a further increase. This is according to a Modi'in Ezrahi survey conducted by Dr. Rahel Yisre'eli. The poll, taken in mid-June, gauged the popularity of various personalities for central Cabinet roles. The interviewees were asked, among other things: "Who do you think is best suited to serve as prime minister?" The results are presented alongside previous polls conducted in May, March, and February 1990.

Question: Who is the personality best suited for prime minister?
[results in percentages]

	June	May	March	February
Rabin	24.2	22.9	9.8	15.3
Shamir	20.4	22.1	19.2	18.3
Peres	11.2	11.1	18.1	14.2
Sharon	6.0	5.0	5.5	9.6
Netanyahu	2.5	1.9	2.1	2.2
Arenas	2.3	2.0	4.0	2.1
Levi	1.1	0.6	1.2	1.3
Another	5.9	5.6	4.3	6.9
No candidate	26.4	28.8	26.0	30.1
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0

Cabinet Appoints Deputy Ministers, Committees

TA2406111590 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew
1005 GMT 14 Jun 90

[Report by political correspondent Arye Golan from the Cabinet meeting, which "has just ended"]

[Text] The meeting was short and to the point, although the Cabinet did not discuss all the items on the agenda. It dealt with the composition of the ministerial committees—including the Ministerial Committee on Security Affairs, which will convene on Wednesdays—so that everything will not have to be dealt with in the full Cabinet.

The Cabinet opened with a security report. During the report, the ministers were briefed on the sinking of the terrorist boat in the north.

The new government then dealt with its various committees. Police Affairs Minister Roni Milo was appointed to the Ministerial Committee on Security Affairs; Bin-yamin Netanyahu was appointed deputy foreign minister; Eli'ezer Mizrahi will be deputy health minister; Avraham Ravitz will be deputy construction and housing minister; and Ge'ula Kohen will be deputy

science and development minister. Tourism Minister Gid'on Pat presented an optimistic report on tourism for the summer.

Israeli-U.S. relations were not discussed today. Neither was Israel's response to Baker's questions or Shamir's answer to the Baker letter. That was, however, the issue the ministers were asked about on their departure from the meeting. Minister Moshe Qatzav believes that now is the right time to further the government's peace plan.

[Begin Qatzav recording] In my view, we should continue full speed to achieve a political settlement. The Israeli Government started the initiative. It is not the present government's fault, but that of ministers in the previous government, that Israel was prevented from advancing the political initiative. I believe the circumstances which prevented progress have changed and we can continue to make progress over the political initiative as approved by the Cabinet in May 1989. [end recording]

On the other hand, and these are differences which will still come to the surface and increase, Refa'el Eytan, the new agriculture minister, of Tsomet, told us: This is not the right time for the peace process.

[Begin Eytan recording] In my view, we are now busy with two principles of supreme importance and we do not have the time, and must not have the time, for any process which is, in fact, a futile effort. We must absorb aliyah and deal with terror. No other process should divert us from these two enterprises. [end recording]

Peres Supporters Suggest Resignation

TA2606031890 Jerusalem Domestic Service in English
0400 GMT 26 Jun 90

[Text] A group of Knesset members [MK's] that supports Labor leader Shim'on Peres has suggested to him that he resign as party chairman. Members of the group told Peres if he did not step down, he'd be opening himself to self-degradation.

A Voice of Israel reporter says the meeting between Peres and his supporters was very tense and concluded with a request by Peres that they meet one more time. The group includes MK's Hayim Ramon, Hagay Merom, Avraham Burg, and Amir Peretz.

King Husayn Urges U.S. To Reconsider Policy

JN2606073390 Jerusalem in Arabic to the Arab World
0430 GMT 26 Jun 90

[Text] King Husayn of Jordan has called on the United States to urgently reassess its policy in the Middle East and to open the door for Soviet Jewish emigrants who wish to settle in the United States rather than in Israel.

The king also said that U.S. suspension of its dialogue with the PLO and the formation of an extremist government in Israel, as he put it, will increase Arab anger and frustration. He said the Middle East is approaching a very dangerous, tense situation similar to that which led to the outbreak of the 1967 war. The king's statements came in an interview published yesterday by the American newspaper WALL STREET JOURNAL.

Editorial on U.S. Interest in Mideast Water

JN2506203590 Amman AL-DUSTUR in Arabic
25 Jun 90 p 1

[Editorial: "Water and Peace...and the American Congress!"]

[Text] We can already smell a rat on the eve of a congressional debate to look into a shortfall of water in the Middle East that is likely to trigger political and military conflict. We are not used to the American Congress engaging in any objective debate when it comes to the Middle East—where the United States' blinkered vision sees only Washington's ally, Israel.

Knowing that the Congress is blindly biased toward Israel, it is legitimate to ask why this sudden interest in the waters of the countries of the region, which happen to be suffering from an acute shortage of water. Interestingly, both houses of Congress and their subcommittees concern themselves with Mideast issues only when these have to do with Israeli interests.

If our curiosity is whetted by this burst of interest in the region's water resources, it is because we know the overwhelming majority of Senate and House members is not about to recognize the more explosive and pressing issues of the region, not least the Israeli occupation of Arab territory.

On the eve of the Congressional debate, it is worthwhile to remind its pro-Zionist members that Israel is responsible for exacerbating the water problems of the countries of the region and bringing the situation to a head. Its theft of Arab waters, its confiscation of water sources in the West Bank, and its objectionable tampering with the sources of the Nile in the Ethiopian mountains are examples.

If the American Congress seems to have the time to look into the problem of water in the Middle East, it is all the more reason for the countries of the region to meet for serious deliberations on the allocation and optimum exploitation of available water—and the sooner the better.

The importance of the issue cannot be overstated. We have on our hands a conspiracy by Israel to take over additional supplies of a commodity that is already in short supply in order to meet the requirements of hundreds of thousands of new immigrants.

U.S. Commitment To Combat Terrorism Termed 'Myth'

JN2206121990 Amman AL-RA'Y in Arabic
22 Jun 90 pp 1, 16

[Editorial: "What After the Suspension of the U.S.-Palestinian Dialogue?"]

[Text] The U.S. secretary of state has not been committed to truth. He claimed yesterday that his administration's commitment to combating terrorism was the reason for suspending the dialogue with the PLO. In the same allegation, he added that Washington views this commitment as the most important effort it is making to establish peace in the Middle East. In fact, the U.S. commitment to combating terrorism is a facade put up by Washington to protect the Israeli aggressors from Palestinian resistance to the occupation. In other words, Washington wants the PLO to be satisfied with begging and seeking forgiveness, while the Israeli occupiers are continuing their terrorist practices, toward which the U.S. Administration has been indifferent.

For example, the occupation forces' crimes against Palestinian babies, persecution of the Palestinian people, and desecration of Islamic and Christian holy places truly embody systematic terrorism. This terrorism did not prompt the U.S. Administration to reconsider its existing cooperation with Israel and did not stimulate its alleged commitment to combating terrorism. With this lopsided, biased policy, Washington felt no embarrassment in turning a blind eye to Israeli terrorism and affixing the label of terrorism to the legitimate Palestinian resistance. This means that the U.S. commitment to combating terrorism is nothing but a myth. Therefore, there is no room for the allegation that combating terrorism is the most important U.S. effort to establish peace in the Middle. The story of these efforts is common knowledge. From the beginning, Washington has been and continues to be the stumbling bloc that prevents the convocation of an international conference, which enjoys international unanimity. Washington made no honest efforts to make Israel accept the option of a just and comprehensive peace. Washington has been the main player that made Jewish emigrants come pouring nowhere else in the world but into Palestine. Thus, it becomes evident that the story of U.S. efforts to establish peace in the region is hard to believe.

James Baker is mistaken in believing that the pretexts he is using to defend Washington's decision can ease the serious responsibility Washington has to shoulder as a result of the decision. In addition, he is mistaken in believing that these pretexts can conceal the premeditated U.S.-Israeli intentions. Shamir exposed these intentions yesterday when he declared that he was

hoping the U.S. decision would be the beginning of the adoption of a joint Israeli-U.S. policy. This means that the decision is the beginning of future developments in which Israel and the United States will take part.

Moreover, Israeli Defense Minister Moshe Arens exposed the same intentions when he declared that the Israeli Army will make the arrangements to confront any possible consequences of the U.S. decision, including in the West Bank and Gaza Strip. Needless to say, Arens' remarks entail a threat to the Palestinians in the occupied territories.

Concerning this escalation produced by the U.S. decision and the statements of Shamir and Arens, and in order to thwart the attempt of the Israeli aggressors and their allies to lead the region to an explosion, the international community, headed by the European Community, is called upon to move swiftly through the UN General Assembly and through all available means to remind Washington of the grave dangers the United States and Israel are endeavoring to escalate in the region. It should call on Washington to adopt a responsible policy preventing the occurrence of an uncalled-for disaster.

As for the Arabs, they have no option but to be prepared to defend themselves, because this preparation in itself will make the aggressors and their allies reconsider their calculations, and because it is an essential factor in preventing the occurrence of irresponsible adventures in the region.

Jordanian-U.S. Friendship Society Formed

JN2606103690 Amman SAWT AL-SHA'B in Arabic
26 Jun 90 Second Edition p 18

[Text] Amman (AL-SHA'B)—A group of Jordanian figures announced a few days ago the formation of Jordanian-U.S. Friendship Society to promote dialogue and understanding between the Jordanian and American peoples.

A statment issued by the society explained that part of its aims is to dispel false notions held by some Americans about Arabs and Islam and to support organizations and institutions which work for similar objectives in the United States.

The statement affirmed that the society will not hesitate to frankly condemn official U.S. policy when harmful to Arab issues.

Saudi Arabia Transfers \$100 Million to Treasury

JN2506155390 Amman Domestic Service in Arabic
1100 GMT 25 Jun 90

[Text] The minister of finance has said that the sisterly government of the custodian of the two holy mosques has transferred \$100 million to the treasury—the Jordanian Central Bank—as the first installment of its contribution to the Arab financial subsidies for 1990 as decreed by the Baghdad Summit resolutions held in Baghdad this year.

The Government of the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan takes the opportunity to extend deep thanks for the generous support given by the government of the custodian of the two holy mosques, King Fahd Bin-'Abd-al-'Aziz, to enable Jordan to weather its economic crisis.

King Husayn Returns Following Brief Iraq Visit

JN2106195290 Amman Domestic Service in Arabic
1800 GMT 21 Jun 90

[Excerpt] His Majesty King Husayn returned home this evening following a brief working visit lasting several hours to fraternal Iraq, during which his majesty held talks with his brother His Excellency President Saddam Husayn. During these talks, they discussed the Arab situation in light of regional and international developments, as well as the brotherly bilateral relations. [passage omitted]

Parliament Member Assails Government's Performance

JN2506201390 Amman Television Service in English
1845 GMT 25 Jun 90

[Text] Member of Parliament Dr. 'Abdallah al-Nusur held a press conference to announce re-forming the National Group within Parliament. The group now has 22 members, including a number of cabinet ministers whose names were not released.

Dr. al-Nusur criticized the government for failing to carry the program it announced in Parliament. Dr. al-Nusur singled out the government's commitment to issues like the economic situation, supply, price rises, water, agriculture, and administrative reform.

The restructured group brings the total number of parliamentary groups to four. They are the Nationalist Group with 22 members; the Islamic Group with 22 members; the Independent Islamic Group with 12 members; and the Democratic Group with 12 members.

Scheer Holds News Conference Before Departure

NC2206201890 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon
in Arabic 1845 GMT 22 Jun 90

[Text] Francois Scheer, French Foreign Ministry secretary general, has emphasized that it is necessary to achieve an accord among all parties and to advance the al-Ta'if agreement. He asserted that the way events have been moving recently could contribute to finding new opportunities and prospects that should be utilized as soon as possible, because the heightened tension in the area could affect Lebanon and increase the threats by which it is surrounded.

Scheer held a news conference before leaving Lebanon for Paris at 1900 this evening. He stated: The discussions I have had with those concerned have confirmed their responsiveness to the current French move, which is based on holding a dialogue with all the parties in Lebanon to assess the chances for achieving solutions conducive to a national accord in Lebanon and the revival of the Lebanese state. He said that the al-Ta'if agreement has opened the way to this. He expressed his conviction that there are still opportunities for a dialogue.

Scheer indicated that General 'Awn had apprised him of certain views and proposals. I, in turn, have conveyed these to the legitimate authority and to all the parties with whom I met and held contacts, he stated, adding: Proceeding from the principles upheld by France and from France's respect for the national accord in Lebanon, the unity and continued existence of Lebanon must be emphasized. He said that the reunification of the army and the revival of state institutions constitute a starting point for building a free and unified Lebanon.

The French Foreign Ministry secretary general said that the purpose of his visit to Lebanon was to express France's constant concern for this country and to discuss with the Lebanese authorities the new opportunities to revive the al-Ta'if agreement and achieve a final resolution of the Lebanese tragedy.

He declared that it had been agreed with President Ilyas al-Hirawi that French Ambassador Rene Ala would maintain contacts with all the parties concerned, to the extent possible.

Asked whether he will continue his mission or whether his mission has ended with this initiative, Scheer said: My task of holding consultations in Beirut has ended, but I will always be at the disposal of the French Government. However, this mission will continue through the contacts that we can hold in Paris.

In response to a question about solving the problem of Gen. 'Awn through the French and Vatican initiatives, Scheer said: I said earlier that the Vatican initiative is different from the French move, but we are always eager to see that these two stands do not conflict, especially as both seek to achieve a solution and national accord.

Al-Hirawi, Al-Huss Leave Beirut for Gulf Tour

NC2306074890 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic
0715 GMT 23 Jun 90

[Text] President Ilyas al-Hirawi and Prime Minister Dr. Salim al-Huss left Beirut this morning at the head of a political and informational delegation to Kuwait on the first leg of a tour that will take them to the United Arab Emirates, Qatar, and Bahrain.

Al-Huss on Agenda

NC2306195590 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon
in Arabic 1845 GMT 23 Jun 90

[Text] Prime Minister Dr. Salim al-Huss has stated in press interviews that all Lebanese problems will be discussed during the current tour, which will take him to the United Arab Emirates, Bahrain, and Qatar in addition to Kuwait. He explained that the most important issue is that of supporting and equipping the Army. He emphasized that the object of the current tour is to acquire the greatest possible political, economic, and social support. He stressed that the question of equipping the Army comes within this context and is not the basic issue, as some try to depict. He reiterated that the issue of the Lebanese Army is very important to the legitimate government at this time, particularly as it constitutes the cornerstone for many of the steps required, especially those connected with the situation in the eastern area and the implementation of Security Council Resolution 425.

Al-Huss stressed that the regime does not want a weak army to be sent to the areas outside control of the legitimate authority lest it become hostage to the forces in control there. In this context, he drew attention to the efforts by Army Commander General Emile Lahhud to rehabilitate the Army. He also referred to the severe shortages of the equipment and spare parts which the major powers withhold from the Lebanese Army.

The prime minister said that the Arabs now have a better understanding of the Lebanese question and that the Arab initiative continues to have better chances of success than the other initiatives. He added that the Vatican initiative stemmed from an incorrect premise and has therefore not produced any positive steps.

Referring to the French move, the prime minister said that the French envoy did not bring an initiative but came to explore views, and that he acted on the basis of a firm French stand of supporting the al-Ta'if agreement and the legitimacy which stemmed from it, and of rejecting any amendment to it. He added that France has become convinced that this agreement constitutes the basis of a solution to the Lebanese crisis.

Referring to the economic and social problems, al-Huss said that the issue of emigration reflects the lack of confidence of a group of Lebanese in the country's future.

Al-Hirawi on Qatari Talks

NC2506102290 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic
0915 GMT 25 Jun 90

[Report from Doha]

[Excerpt] An official round of talks was held this morning between His Highness Qatari Amir Shaykh Khalifah Ibn Hamad Al Thani and His Excellency Lebanese President Ilyas al-Hirawi. The talks dealt with bilateral relations and ways to further strengthen them, the Lebanese problem, regional and international efforts to help realize sovereignty and implement the al-Ta'if agreement, and developments in the Arab arena. The Voice of Lebanon was the first to learn the outcome of these talks from President al-Hirawi himself.

[Begin al-Hirawi recording] Today's talks produced more results than I had hoped. I never thought for a moment that sister Qatar's stand would be anything different from the one reiterated today. Qatar declared its absolute political support for Lebanese legitimacy and the al-Ta'if agreement. It appealed to all Lebanese to join this agreement so we can find the right approach. As for the Arab fund for Lebanon, Qatar is one of the first supporters of this idea. Our Qatari brothers are anxiously awaiting an announcement on the mechanics of that fund so they can be the first contributor.

I believe the amir's office will issue a statement after the talks have concluded. [end recording] [passage omitted]

Further on Talks With Qatari Amir

NC2506171290 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic
1530 GMT 25 Jun 90

[Text] President Ilyas al-Hirawi, Prime Minister Dr. Salim al-Huss, and their accompanying delegation left Doha for Manama, the capital of Bahrain, at 1700 today.

The official Lebanese-Qatari talks ended in Doha at 1030. Lebanon was represented by President al-Hirawi and Prime Minister al-Huss while Qatar was represented by the amir, His Highness Shaykh Khalifah Ibn Hamad Al Thani. Lebanese presidential sources said the hour-long talks dealt with various aspects of the Lebanese situation and the need to implement the al-Ta'if accord. The Qatari side stressed its readiness to bolster the international fund for the reconstruction of Lebanon and to participate in any project designed to serve the Lebanese issue.

The same sources pointed out that President al-Hirawi and Prime Minister al-Huss have expressed satisfaction with the talks which revolved around the various aspects of the Lebanese issue. Qatar affirmed its desire to do all it can to help Lebanon return to normality.

QNA [Qatari News Agency] reported that the Lebanese-Qatari talks touched on developments in Lebanon. The two Arab leaders stressed that the al-Ta'if accord is the sole means of resolving the crisis in Lebanon.

The two sides urged all warring sides in Lebanon to shoulder their responsibility, end Lebanon's sufferings, and help it survive its ordeal. They expressed the hope that efforts will intensify to ensure the implementation of Security Council Resolution 425 which calls on Israel to withdraw from the south.

On the Palestinian problem, the Lebanese and Qatari sides called on the international community to convene a UN-sponsored peace conference which would be attended by all parties concerned, including the PLO.

Reviewing the fraternal relations between the two countries, the two sides stressed their desire to strengthen and promote these relations in all fields to serve the interests of the two countries and peoples.

In another development, Prime Minister Dr. Salim al-Huss said that Lebanon will take part in the upcoming Arab summit, scheduled to be held in Cairo in November. He expressed optimism over the possibility of giving impetus to the Lebanese issue. Dr. al-Huss pointed out that the establishment of an international fund for the reconstruction of Lebanon constitutes a good gesture by Lebanon's brothers and friends.

Dr. al-Huss also criticized Washington's decision to suspend its dialogue with the PLO. This came in a statement that Dr. al-Huss made in Doha today.

Junblatt 'Thinking' of Resigning From Cabinet

NC2106144790 (Clandestine) Voice of the Mountain
in Arabic to Lebanon 1300 GMT 21 Jun 90

[Text] In an interview with AL-ANWAR to be published tomorrow, Progressive Socialist Party leader Walid Junblatt said that he has no personal demands but is demanding an end to the squandering of resources to avoid an economic catastrophe.

He said: We cannot discuss these things in the cabinet. Do we openly tell a thief that he is a thief? Do we treat a disease with another disease?

Replying to a question, Junblatt said: Resignation is difficult but I am thinking about it. About being dismissed from the cabinet, he said: I do not need either al-Huss or his master. I do not need anything.

Commenting on a statement made by al-Huss about the government's position and his desire for changes, Junblatt said: Let him change the government if he can. It is no honor to serve in a government with al-Huss. He added: If there must be Druze representation to maintain a balance in the country, then there can be somebody else or I might be represented by Muhsin Dallul or Nabih Birri for example.

Junblatt said that Speaker al-Husayni and al-Huss are not on Syria's side. He added: Sometimes I do not go along with Syria. But I believe that war is coming and this is why I called for making the Lebanese Army a division of the Syrian Army. Junblatt also called for drawing up a sound

security plan under Lebanese command so the Syrian Army can defend some areas in Lebanon and so that Syria will not remain stuck in Beirut.

Junblatt then said if Michel 'Awn agrees to the al-Ta'if accord with all its bad and good points, that is, if it has any good points, and joins the legitimate authority, then we will see what happens. He noted that Syria supports the al-Ta'if accord, adding: We have full coordination with Syria.

He then spoke of local and external reasons that are preventing the Army from being equipped. He said: The uniforms that were ordered by minister Albert Mansur have not yet been received. Invoices are being paid without General Emile Lahhud seeing them. Lahhud is an honest man and not willing to be tainted by deals. Junblatt then proposed that the Kuwaiti aid which was received by Minister al-Rasi be given to the Army, adding: This would be better than the way it is now being distributed.

Minister Al-Khalil Leaves for Cairo 23 Jun

NC2306124990 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic
1200 GMT 23 Jun 90

[Text] Finance Minister Dr. 'Ali al-Khalil left for Cairo today on the first leg of a tour to some African and European states to discuss the question of Lebanese expatriates in some African states who are being bothered and threatened by groups and quarters that cooperate with Israel to undermine Afro-Lebanese relations in particular, and Afro-Arab relations in general.

Italian Consular Section Reopens in West Beirut

NC3105080890 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic
0700 GMT 31 May 90

[Text] The Italian ambassador to Lebanon has announced that the consular section has been reopened in West Beirut. He added that an official has been appointed to facilitate the issuance of entry visas to Italy.

Al-Hirawi Receives Ambassadors' Credentials

NC2206083190 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic
0800 GMT 22 Jun 90

[Text] President Ilyas al-Hirawi received the credentials of new Canadian Ambassador Gary Herman and Indonesian Ambassador Muhammad Hafnah today.

New Ambassador to Ghana Approved

NC2206113390 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic
1030 GMT 22 Jun 90

[Text] The Foreign Ministry has been informed that the Ghanaian Government has approved the appointment of Hisham Dimashqiyah as Lebanon's new ambassador to Ghana to replace Ambassador Muhammad 'Isa, who has been transferred to another post.

Amal, Hizballah Trade Gunfire in Iqlim al-Tuffah

NC2506122590 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic
1200 GMT 25 Jun 90

[Text] A state of tension and alert prevails along the various combat lines in Iqlim al-Tuffah. The Amal Movement and Hizballah fighters are exchanging sniper and heavy-caliber machine-gun fire. Meanwhile, fighting involving rockets and machine guns broke out in the region last night.

Israeli Military Movements Reported in South

NC2606105890 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic
1030 GMT 26 Jun 90

[Text] The NATIONAL NEWS AGENCY correspondent in Hasbayya has reported that Israeli warplanes flew constant sorties last night over the border areas, Jazzin, and Western al-Biq'a. This came amid security reports from al-'Urqub that Israeli armored movements were observed last night all along the international borders between Lebanon and the occupied Palestinian territories and in the Tital al-Ahmadiyah area that overlooks Western al-Biq'a.

Israeli helicopters flew over Sidon and its suburbs at low altitude early today while Israeli gunboats cruised off the coast between al-Naqurah and Tyre and opened fire on the al-Rashidiyah camp.

Finnish Foreign Minister Paasio Arrives**Comments on Agenda**

*JN2406075690 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic
2015 GMT 23 Jun 90*

[Text] Mr. Paasio Pertti, Finnish foreign minister, arrived in Damascus at 1800 this evening on a visit to the Syrian Arab Republic.

Receiving him at the Damascus International Airport were Nasir Qaddur, minister of state for foreign affairs; Yusuf Shakkur, assistant foreign minister; directors of the Europe and Protocol Desks at the Foreign Ministry; and the Finnish ambassador and members of the embassy in Damascus.

Mr. Paasio made a statement to the SANA correspondent, expressing happiness at the visit. He said the aim of this visit is to meet and hold talks with the Syrian officials on standing world issues, especially the situation in the Middle East.

Mr. Paasio added: We are holding contacts with Syria because Finland is now a member of the Security Council, and we have to know what is going on in the region.

Meets With Al-Shar

*JN2406161490 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic
1115 GMT 24 Jun 90*

[Text] Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar' received Finnish Foreign Affairs Minister Pertti Paasio this morning in the presence of Assistant Foreign Minister Yusuf Shakkur and the heads of the West European, economic, and information departments at the ministry.

(Yago Blobizikh), director general of political affairs at the Finnish Ministry of Foreign Affairs and the Finnish ambassador in Damascus also attended the meeting.

During the meeting, talks concerned recent European developments, the Arab-Israeli conflict, and the Lebanese situation.

The Finnish foreign minister expressed his country's appreciation of Syria's position and its important role in the region. He also expressed Finland's concern over the deteriorating situation in the Middle East, caused by the continued Israeli occupation of Arab lands and the failure to implement UN Security Council Resolutions 338 and 242.

There was agreement on the need to convene an international conference.

Meets With Al-Zu'bi

*JN2506164990 Damascus Domestic Service
in Arabic 1115 GMT 25 Jun 90*

[Text] Damascus—At 1130 today, Prime Minister Mahmud al-Zu'bi received Finnish Foreign Affairs Minister Pertti Paasio and his delegation. The meeting was

attended by Muhammad Khadir, head of the West Europe desk at the Foreign Ministry, and the Finnish ambassador in Damascus.

The talks during the meeting focused on relations between Syria and Finland and the importance of developing economic, trade, and cultural relations. They also dealt with the two countries' efforts to reinforce cooperation and contacts, Syria's steps to achieve development, and other issues of mutual interest.

Meets With Khaddam, Qaddurah

*JN2506200590 Damascus Television Service in Arabic
1730 GMT 25 Jun 90*

[Text] Vice President 'Abd-al-Halim Khaddam received today Finnish Foreign Minister Pertti Paasio. They discussed international developments, Lebanon, the Middle East, and bilateral ties. Paasio gave Khaddam a letter from the Finnish president to His Excellency President Hafiz al-Asad. The Finnish minister then called on People's Assembly Speaker 'Abd-al-Qadir Qaddurah.

Meanwhile, Mr Paasio said he is glad to be visiting Syria and to have held successful and important talks with senior officials. He was also impressed by all areas of development in Syria, the minister said.

Talas Views Israeli 'Threats,' 'Provocations'

*JN2606064590 Damascus Domestic Service
in Arabic 0415 GMT 26 Jun 90*

[Text] In implementation of directives issued by His Excellency struggler President Hafiz al-Asad, one of our combat units, along with the Air Force and air defense systems, conducted a tactical exercise involving the use of troops.

General Mustafa Talas, deputy commander in chief of the Army and the Armed Forces, deputy prime minister, and defense minister; and General 'Ali Aslan, deputy chief of staff of the Army and the Armed Forces; and a number of senior officers of the General Command and Army units attended the operational phase of the exercise.

During the first phase, which involved the implementation of the exercise, the exercise commander explained the training and operational objectives of the exercise as well as the skills to be obtained from it so the troops involved can benefit from them and also allow others to benefit from them.

The joint units performed their missions under simulated conditions very close to a real battlefield situation. They managed to successfully accomplish their tasks, which involved complicated combat missions.

At the end of the exercise, Gen. Talas praised those who managed as well as those who implemented the exercise. He affirmed that during the current phase our Arab nation is being exposed to new dangers which threaten its existence and future. This dictates that our Armed Forces double their alertness, combat capabilities, and

preparedness for waging successful liberation battles. He asserted that Israeli threats and provocations are useless, and that if Israel were to carry them out, it would pay dearly because Syria, under the leadership of struggler President Hafiz al-Asad, would then shoulder its national and pan-Arab responsibilities. Our Armed Forces would also confront the aggression using all the available means to restore usurped rights, liberate the land, and restore dignity, Gen. Talas concluded.

Commentary on 'Misleading' Israeli Peace Calls

JN2506205790 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic
1130 GMT 25 Jun 90

[Station commentary]

[Text] Gentlemen: Deceptive Israeli statements have continued on more than one level in an attempt to absorb the indignation of world opinion and enhance the image of the Zionist entity, which has recently turned extraordinarily dim. The enemy prime minister has addressed calls to Arab officials to negotiate and establish normal relations, as he claimed, while Sharon has said that Jewish immigrants will not be settled in the occupied Arab territories. In fact, talk is currently focusing on the possibility of resuming discussion of the plan of U.S. Secretary of State James Baker.

The truth is that all these statements are part of the policy of procrastination, delay, and deception, that has been the policy of Zionism since its establishment. What reveals the falsity of these statements are the facts in the occupied territories: The enemy has formed an armed guard of settlers in order to carry out acts of terrorism and oppression against our kinsfolk and to commit massacres to make our citizens to leave their lands.

If Israel were truly seeking peace, as Shamir and his assistants claim, then the fundamentals of peace mandate a full reconsideration of Zionist policy toward the Palestinian people. Nothing of the kind has so far happened. Neither will this happen in the foreseeable future. In fact, the enemy leaders have promised the Palestinian people more killing, destruction, and deportation, and have refused to recognize any of their rights. At the same time, these leaders have rejected withdrawal from the occupied Arab territories, refusing even to discuss the idea of withdrawal.

It is well known that the valiant Palestinian intifadah has inflicted severe economic losses on the Zionist entity—in terms of the requirements for confrontation, troops, and spending billions of dollars annually to finance the suppression operations. The Israeli economy has been greatly affected by the escalation of the intifadah and the

tourism recession. Israel has become more isolated internationally because of its inhuman practices, which have been severely denounced and condemned worldwide.

In the face of the uncomfortable facts about Israel, the Tel Aviv leaders are seeking to brighten their image for world opinion, and to mislead others into believing that they are seeking peace and making calls to achieve it.

The Arabs have demonstrated a true desire to establish peace. The true road to peace lies in a UN-sponsored international conference, with the participation of all concerned parties and Security Council members, and the establishment of a comprehensive, just peace settlement. Israel, however, which has refused to respond to the most basic Palestinian rights, or to withdraw from the occupied Arab territories, still rejects the international conference, UN sponsorship, and the participation of Security Council members, and insists, at the same time, on stepping up the war of suppression and annihilation against the Palestinian people and expanding settlement activity and settlement of Jewish emigres in the occupied territories.

The enemy leaders' misleading statements cannot cloak the crystal-clear facts, primarily Israel's rejection of peace and its continued persistent aggression and expansion. Israel's call on Arab leaders to negotiate is only meant to delude world opinion and distract attention from the suppression taking place in the occupied territories and the schemes of aggression.

As for the statements that immigrants will not be settled in the occupied territories, they are merely an attempt to alleviate the fears of the Soviet Union, which has repeatedly threatened to halt Jewish emigration.

The road to a just, comprehensive, and lasting peace is clear. The Zionist deception campaign will only reinforce the conviction of the Arabs and the world of Israel's inherent hostility toward peace and its continuous quest for aggression and expansion.

Ministerial Delegation Departs for Libya 25 Jun

JN2506195590 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic
1815 GMT 25 Jun 90

[Text] This afternoon, Muhammad Ghabbash, minister of agriculture and agrarian reform; Dr Muhammad al-'Imadi, minister of economy and foreign trade; and Khalid al-Mahayini, minister of finance; and Central Bank Governor Dr Muhammad al-Sharif, left for Libya for talks on economic and agricultural cooperation.

Before departure, the minister of agriculture said the visit was to hold talks to bolster economic cooperation with Libya, Egypt, and Sudan. He hoped the talks would help to further cooperation in all areas.

Afghanistan

President Najibullah Addresses Kabul PDPA

NC2406123890 Kabul Republic of Afghanistan
Television in Dari and Pashto to Regional Stations at
1900 GMT 23 Jun 90

[Speech by President Najibullah at a conference of the Kabul City People's Democratic Party of Afghanistan (PDPA) organization held to elect delegates to the second congress of the PDPA—date not given; recorded]

[Text] Dear comrades, allow me to sincerely congratulate you on the successful convocation of the conference of your great party organization and those comrades who have been elected as delegates to the second congress. [applause] Taking part in the party congress is not only a formidable honor, it is also a great responsibility. This is particularly true concerning the second congress of our party which is now to be convened after 25 years. The congress is the highest platform for the party leadership and the most credible venue for making decisions.

The congress should be convened every four years in accordance with the charter. But, unfortunately, this has not taken place—either under the conditions of a half-baked democracy in the late 40's and beginning of the 50's, or even during the decade of its sovereignty.

Three and a half years have elapsed since the proclamation of the policy of national reconciliation. During this period the Central Committee of the party called the second nationwide party conference; broad plenums were held, and consultations were made with party comrades on important issues of party and social life. A general vote of the party was sought by convening general sessions of primary party organizations.

All these, as primary steps, have prepared the ground for convening the second congress of the party, of which we are on the threshold. It is worth mentioning that preparation for the congress is taking place under difficult military and political conditions. Despite increasing signs of a political solution to our problems, the war and the launching of missiles on residential regions by the extremists are still continuing. Despite the spread of realism and sound thinking among the opposition, the extremist elements are still suffering from war hysteria and the imposition of their evil wishes on the people of Afghanistan is at the price of killing and destruction and further losses. The extremists are making futile efforts to ignore the reality of our party and thus prevent a peaceful and democratic solution of the issues. However, common sense and democracy undoubtedly will prevail against shortsightedness and extremism.

As a matter of fact, the preparation and convocation of our party congress is taking place under conditions of transition, peace, and democracy. The careful understanding of this point is important because the fundamental issues that will be raised at the congress, and the replies to the

questions concerning future directions of the party, will be linked to the binding interest of the party.

The proceedings of the provincial party conferences, wards of Kabul City, and party organizations of the Armed Forces, passing through their final stages, have revealed that the overwhelming majority of party comrades have understood quite well the crucial nature of the present and in particular the sensitivity of the existing situation. The conferences, convened in a democratic atmosphere—comradely openness and free debates—have elected the most informed and worthy members of the party as delegates to the second party congress. Party organizations have the right to expect great things from their delegates: All reconstruction of the party and its preparation for action under the new political conditions are in their hands. The objective and critical analysis of the complicated situation, brought about as a result of 12 years of war, intervention from abroad, conspiracies by the enemies of the homeland, and mistakes made inside the party, will assist the search for finding ways for durable peace and stability in the country. At this very moment, after continuing implementation of a policy of national reconciliation for over three years, the possibility of overcoming the difficulties is more feasible than at any other time.

Talks are expected to begin between the Republic of Afghanistan and the opposition, and the peace process will be accelerated. Under such conditions our great responsibility is to prepare and mobilize the party and all its organizations to work under conditions of peace and reconstruction.

Responsible participation in the work of the second congress is not just a party matter—it is a deep national and patriotic duty that the decisions taken by the congress will have an enormous effect on the further development of the situation throughout the country.

What type of character and profile will contribute to the implementation of this national and patriotic duty? It is worthwhile to speak briefly on this matter: First of all, representatives of the congress should become outstanding examples of patriotism with a deep sense of responsibility toward the destiny of our millions of compatriots who are weary of the war. Such a feeling will enable the party to assess issues from a broad point of view and make its historic choice in the national interests of the people. Any type of prejudicial approach in the tight circle of the interests of party, ideology, class, or grouping, could become an obstacle to peace and stability, in which the interests of all our people is embodied.

The representatives should be equipped with a high level of sound judgment and realism. If various negative phenomenon such as lack of unity, crisis of confidence, dominance of deviated tendencies, and varying class interests existed previously in the party, the main reason was the lack of realism and objective assessment of the issues. There is nothing more unfortunate than ignoring the reality and imagining that there is no other reality but

one's own ideas and viewpoint. Only realistic and objective assessment—without any prejudice toward the party's past, the activities of its leading apparatus in various stages, and the real causes for its defeats and victories—give us the opportunity to avoid a repetition of the mistakes and to use the past's positive experiences skillfully to boldly specify a path for subsequent moves by the party.

An outstanding feature that will assist the representatives toward better implementation of their great duties is their independent view and will. No party can be exempted from various thoughts and views toward a framework of a united and general policy. We, too, cannot ignore the existence of various tendencies within the party during the period of its activities, either in overt or covert form. To put it clearly, the climate of the congress in general will not be without such varying tendencies either. However, a representative of the congress is one whose duty is not to limited and onesided tendencies, but comprehensive representation of a party organization which has given him the credentials to take part in the congress. Therefore, independent study and evaluation, objective assessment and expression of views, and ideas free from any type of limited attachment are the only conditions of loyalty to the general interest of the party and a worthy way of implementing this representation. Coolness, self-assurance, and forbearance should be among the outstanding features of the representatives to our party congress.

In the past nothing has damaged our party more than shallow feelings, lack of patience with each other, and hasty judgment. Patience and coolness can transform strong opponents into allies; while impatience and shallow feelings can provoke true allies into adversaries. If the representatives—by avoiding outspokenness, strong opinions and bold expressions—exhibit the necessary patience to listen to the views of other comrades as well as display cool and logical judgement, they will ensure the decisive success of the work of our congress, and lead the way in resolving our very complicated national problems.

Finally, I want to stress one other matter, that is, the understanding of a logical balance between a wish and reality. In the past, along with several internal and external circumstances, one of the reasons for the party's defeat was the unrealistic efforts of the party leadership to impose aspirations on the hard, uncompromising realities. As a result, the most noble party aspirations ended up with disastrous and tragic results both for the party and the people by ignoring the objective realities of our society. Today, too, when we are approaching our second party congress, may the hearts and souls of patriotic, democratic, and progressive comrades be imbued with many desirable and necessary aspirations; but they should evaluate their surrounding environment with vigilance. They should not, even for a minute, remove themselves from the existing realities of our society, such as the war-afflicted country, the desire for peace, the broad spectrum of the miscellaneous political

forces, the indisputable right of all to take part in running the country, the general situation of a political atmosphere both in the world and in our region, and the need for the party to compromise with this atmosphere. The same issue should be used in relation to democracy and discipline and balance between centrifugal and centripetal forces. That is, despite the endless tendency for an internal party democracy, we should align our aspirations with the realities of the present changing moment, which holds the need for ensuring a successful passage for the party from a great political test on the eve of talks with the opposition and participation in the future elections.

Dear comrades, without any doubt our party has successfully passed the test of time. Fortunately, by leaving behind difficult days and going along paths full of ups and down—especially during the last one and a half years of independent defense—and by overcoming the recent unsuccessful conspiracies, the party henceforth will play its national and patriotic role in the best manner, and the second party congress will be a bright example of this role.

Thank you for your attention. [applause]

Strong Protests to Pakistan on Air Intrusions

LD2506154590 *Kabul Domestic Service in Dari*
1330 GMT 25 Jun 90

[Text] The Pakistan charge d'affaires in Kabul has been summoned to the Foreign Ministry, and the following points have been conveyed to him by the director of the First Political Department.

The Pakistani authorities continue their violation of the Geneva agreements and international norms despite the repeated protests of the Afghan Government. According to an authentic report by the relevant authorities of the Republic of Afghanistan today, dated 25 June, at 1228 two Pakistani jets entered the subdistrict of Barikot in Konar, coordinates 41, 11 and 127, 32, at a speed of 850 km/hour and at an altitude of 7000 meters to carry out reconnaissance 20 km deep into Asmar district. After one and a half minutes of reconnaissance they returned to Pakistan through (Banshi Kandau), coordinates 38, 82 and 127, 32. Taking into account the irrefutable evidence, the Afghan Government expresses its strong protest at the intrusions by the military forces of Pakistan into Afghan territory. It draws the attention of the Pakistani Government to the scrupulous observance of the Geneva agreements and international law and asks them to prevent a repetition otherwise the responsibility of their grave consequences will rest with its authorities.

Government Statement on Overflights

LD2506173190 *Kabul Domestic Service in Pashto*
1530 GMT 25 Jun 90

[Text] The following is a statement of the Government of the Republic of Afghanistan: During recent days open

violations by the Pakistani Air Force into Afghan airspace have intensified to an unprecedented degree. During the last two days jet aircraft of the Pakistani Air Force have on several occasions violated Afghan airspace in the Barikot sub-district, Asmar district, Konar, and the south of Jalalabad from the direction of Arandu and Parachinar. They have penetrated up to 50 km into Republic of Afghanistan airspace.

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Afghanistan, continuing its protests of previous aggression by Pakistani aircraft against Afghan territory, has during the last two days summoned the charge d'affairs of the Pakistani Embassy and conveyed to the Government of Pakistan through him the strongest protests from the Government of the Republic of Afghanistan at these aggressions.

The Government of the Republic of Afghanistan once again states that the continuation of such aggression, which contravenes all international standards and the letter and spirit of the Geneva Accords of which Pakistan is a signatory, will have very dangerous and grave consequences. In the event of a repetition of such violations and aggression, the Government of the Republic of Afghanistan reserves its right to defend the national sovereignty of the country by all available means.

The Government of the Republic of Afghanistan calls upon all countries of the world, the United Nations and all peace-loving organizations and circles to exert pressure on Pakistan to desist from continuing such dangerous provocations which endanger peace and security in the region more than ever before. Otherwise all the dangerous consequences arising from such provocations will rest on the shoulders of the Government of Pakistan.

India

Army Chief Says Pakistan Assists Militants

BK2206162890 Delhi Domestic Service in English
1530 GMT 22 Jun 90

[Text] The chief of the Army staff, General V.N. Sharma, has said that for all practical purposes, the line of actual control formed the international border in Jammu and Kashmir and its continued violation by Pakistan cannot be allowed to go scotfree. Addressing troops during a farewell visit to the forward areas of Punjab, the Army chief said Pakistan is arming, training, financing and pushing militants in Jammu and Kashmir and Punjab and the stage is coming when we would have to confront it.

Curfew in Uttar Pradesh Areas Following Violence

BK2306161690 Delhi Domestic Service in English
1530 GMT 23 Jun 90

[Text] In Uttar Pradesh, an indefinite curfew was imposed in Jagdishpur, Pratapganj, Loha Mandi, and Shahnjaj police station areas of Agra District following violent incidents. The state home secretary said in Lucknow that

two persons were killed when police opened fire to control a violent mob in (Panwadi) village yesterday. Tension prevailed when a group of people did not allow a marriage party to pass through a particular route. Over 200 persons have been taken into custody in connection with the incident. The situation is stated to be tense but under control. Additional police forces, including two companies of the CRPF [Central Reserve Police Force], have been deployed in the area to maintain law and order. The army also staged a flag-march. District authorities in western Uttar Pradesh have been alerted to keep constant vigil over the law and order situation.

Four Pakistan-Trained 'Terrorists' Die in Kashmir

BK2406155590 Delhi Domestic Service in English
1530 GMT 24 Jun 90

[Text] In the Kashmir Valley, four Pak-trained terrorists were killed in an encounter with security forces in the five-km border belt this morning. According to official reports, a group of about 50 Pakistan-trained terrorists tried to sneak into the Indian territory from across the border. The security forces challenged them and the terrorists fired on the security forces. In the return firing by security forces, four militants were killed. More details of the encounter are awaited.

The situation in the Kashmir Valley was by and large peaceful today barring a few incidents of militants firing on security forces.

Iran

Foreign Condolences on Earthquake Received

U.S. Condolences, Aid Offer

LD2206192590 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian
1630 GMT 22 Jun 90

[Text] Marlin Fitzwater, the White House spokesman, announced that the U.S. Government expresses sorrow at the human losses inflicted in Iran. He reaffirmed that the U.S. Government has cabled a message of condolence to Mr. Hashemi-Rafsanjani, the president of the Islamic Republic of Iran, via a third party. Fitzwater added: We are prepared to assist Iran, and are waiting for Iran to announce its requirements. He reiterated: The aim behind the U.S. proposal is not to improve relations between the two countries.

The Jordanian king, too, in a message sent to Mr. Hashemi-Rafsanjani, expressed his condolences on the earthquake catastrophe.

The Iraqi president, too, in a message sent to the president of our country, expressed his condolences on that tragedy and announced Iraq's preparedness for providing any assistance based on any requirement announced by Iran.

The Tunisian president, too, in a condolatory message to Mr. Hashemi-Rafsanjani, while conveying his deep condolences to our country's president, reiterated that the Tunisian people share the grief of their Iranian brothers.

Sa'ud al-Faysal, the foreign minister of Saudi Arabia, too, in an interview stressed that his country is ready to rush to the rescue of the Iranian earthquake victims.

Thatcher Sends Message

LD2406214590 *Tehran Domestic Service in Persian*
2030 GMT 24 Jun 90

[Text] The prime minister of Britain sent on Saturday a sympathy message to the president of our country in view of the earthquake in northern Iran. According to the REUTER News Agency, the contents of this message have not been disclosed by British officials. The report adds that in a conference in London, Thatcher said: When events such as these occur, all political barriers come down.

Norway, Bahrain, Italy, Others

LD2506083690 *Tehran IRNA in English*
0803 GMT 25 Jun 90

[Text] Tehran, June 25, IRNA—Messages of sympathy and condolences are still being cabled to the Iranian officials by various heads of states and prominent personalities from all over the world in the aftermath of the last Thursday [21 June] disastrous earthquake.

Cables received Sunday were from: the queen and the prime minister of Norway, the emir of Bahrain, the president of Italy, the secretary general of the Islamic Conference Organisation, the secretary general of UNESCO, the head of the leadership council and acting foreign minister of Sudan, the Kenyan president, a number of Syrian officials and several groups and parties in Bangladesh.

Meanwhile, mourning ceremonies on the same occasion were held in Damascus, Doha, Nairobi, Sydney, and Buenos Aires.

Relief Efforts Continue; Foreign Aid Received

Nuri Welcomes Aid

LD2506184490 *Tehran Television Service in Persian*
1700 GMT 25 Jun 90

[Excerpts] In an interview today with reporters, Interior Minister Nuri described the latest situation on relief work for the tremor-hit areas, and said that 72 hours after the earthquake in Gilan and Zanjan Provinces, so far 99 percent of the corpses have been uncovered from underneath the rubble, and subsequently buried. There is no village which has been left out of the relief work. [passage omitted]

The interior minister pointed out that at present there are no serious problems in the affected areas. Referring to the

issue of providing shelter and housing for the tremor-affected people, he said that what is important for us is the provision of nearly 50,000 housing units for those affected. In view of the geographical situation of these areas, we welcome any help in this connection, from inside the country or from abroad. [passage omitted]

The interior minister stressed Iran's willingness to receive any kind of help from foreign countries, and reminded us that the timely presence of foreign forces with complete and advanced equipment, and their help in rescue operations, medical treatment, and locating corpses and burying them, have all been very effective. From our side, there is, and there has been no problem with utilizing the humanitarian aid from foreign countries. The interior minister pointed to the criticisms and the nagging attitude of some people, and said that the depth of the tragedy and the volume of work are so great that it requires a lot of effort, and the Muslim nation of Iran and the country's executive organs reacted rapidly with all their abilities. Hence they managed to carry out this duty in the desirable manner. It would be sheer ingratitude if all these efforts had been neglected.

Nuri Expresses Gratitude

LD2606100790 *Tehran IRNA in English*
0902 GMT 26 Jun 90

[Text] Tehran, June 26, IRNA—Iranian relief teams have reached all villages hit by the catastrophic earthquake which devastated a vast area in northern and northwestern Iran last Thursday [21 June], said Interior Minister Hojjat ol-Eslam 'Abdollah Nuri in a press interview here Monday [25 June].

On the extent of relief aids by governmental bodies and popular forces, he quoted the head of a foreign relief team as saying that what has been done in Iran is amazing and unprecedented even comparing it to what was done after the disastrous earthquake in the Soviet Armenia in 1988.

The hojjat ol-eslam, who is also in charge of the special headquarters for relief aids to the quake victims, pointed that it was not possible at the moment to give an exact figure on the casualties and that the figures released so far were only estimations. "Counting of the dead and the injured has started as of Monday [25 June]," he told reporters.

On the arrival of foreign relief teams in the area, he expressed gratitude and praised their assistance saying, "their presence in the area was useful." He added, "if new relief teams are willing to come to Iran on humanitarian grounds, they are welcome," but made clear that the Israeli and South African regimes are exceptions.

On death toll of the quake which has reduced many cities, towns and hundreds of villages to ruins he said, "presently, I dare say that 99 percent of the bodies have been pulled out of the rubbles."

He told reporters that at present the most urgent need is the shortage of tents after which comes the housing adding that any help in this connection is welcomed in any form.

Asked whether Iran is in need of foreign doctors' assistance, he said any foreigner who wishes to come to the quake-stricken areas on humanitarian reasons, even just to see the scope of the disaster, could do so. Those wishing to help will be provided with the needed facilities.

The minister criticized those who have visited the quake-stricken areas with the intention of criticizing and downgrading what has been accomplished by the rescue workers. He said, "They had better come to the region immediately after the quake just as the foreign volunteers did and help pull out the bodies instead of going there just to criticize."

American, Other Aid Sent

NC2406062590 *Tehran Domestic Service in Persian*
0330 GMT 24 Jun 90

[Text] As part of Syria's humanitarian assistance to our earthquake victims, one airplane carrying 11 tons of pharmaceuticals and a fully-equipped medical team left for Tehran yesterday. According to AFP, three cargo planes are bringing assistance from the Algerian Government including foodstuffs, pharmaceuticals, and tents.

An airplane carrying approximately \$1.7 million in relief goods, including pharmaceuticals and foodstuffs, from an American philanthropic organization, left for Iran. This airplane is carrying various antibiotics, sedatives, equipment for bandaging fractures, burn ointments, surgical gloves, sticking plasters, tents, and canned goods.

A Boeing 707 carrying 40 tons of items required by the victims of the earthquake in north and northwest Iran left London last night for Tehran. According to AFP, a total of 18 airplanes are expected to transport miscellaneous relief goods from various British organizations for the victims.

EEC, U.S. Offer Assistance

LD2606122290 *Tehran Domestic Service in Persian*
1030 GMT 26 Jun 90

[Correspondent's telephone report from London]

[Text] The participants at the 12-member EEC summit, currently held in Dublin, expressed sympathy with the government and the nation of Iran for the earthquake tragedy in our country's northern and western regions, and announced during last night's session that they would allocate every possible assistance to the victims of this earthquake. Sources close to the EEC summit announced that a statement in this regard will be released tonight.

Meanwhile the flood of assistance given by the Muslims residing in Europe continues to the victims of the earthquake in our country's northern and western

regions. The Islamic associations and organizations in Europe too, by issuing sympathy messages addressed to the leader of the Islamic revolution his Eminence Ayatollah Khamene'i, have offered condolences to him and the Islamic ummah on this sad catastrophe.

The Danish Red Cross dispatched a planeload of medicine to Iran last night. The U.S. Red Cross has reported \$200,000 in U.S. aid to the earthquake victims. The third British plane carrying British Red Cross aid left London for Tehran today.

Syrian Foreign Minister Arrives

LD2206193790 *Tehran IRNA in English*
1842 GMT 22 Jun 90

[Text] Tehran, June 22, IRNA—The Syrian foreign minister arrived here Friday to express his country's sympathy to Iranian officials in the wake of the earthquake that devastated northern Iran.

Faruq al-Shar' is carrying a message from Syrian President Hafiz al-Asad for his Iranian counterpart Akbar Hashemi-Rafsanjani.

Al-Shar' was welcomed at Tehran's Mehrabad airport by Foreign Minister 'Ali Akbar Velayati.

Syrian Minister Meets President

LD2306125990 *Tehran Domestic Service in Persian*
1030 GMT 23 Jun 90

[Text] Mr. Faruq al-Shar', the Syrian foreign minister, who has come to Tehran to offer Syrian President Hafiz al-Asad's message of condolences to our country's president, met and conferred with Mr. Hashemi-Rafsanjani this morning.

In the meeting, which was attended by our country's foreign Minister Mr. Velayati and the Syrian Arab Republic's ambassador, Mr. Faruq al-Shar' conveyed the most sincere condolences of Mr. Hafiz al-Asad and said: I carry the Syrian leadership and nation's deepest sympathy on the occasion of the painful tragedy of earthquake in some regions of Islamic Iran for the Islamic Republic of Iran's leader, yourself, and the Muslim nation of Iran.

We are sure that the Iranian nation which is used to facing difficulties and has left behind many problems in various situations, this time too, can overcome this great painful tragedy through steadfastness and resistance.

The Syrian foreign minister added: Mr. Hafiz al-Asad has authorized the Syrian prime minister and the Syrian ministers to prepare themselves for any kind of assistance. The Syrian foreign minister reiterated: We are confident that the Islamic Republic's powerful leadership and the self-sacrificing and resistant people of Iran possess the best of powers to stand this natural disaster. He added: The Syrian nation stands beside you, and all Islamic nations and all of the world are in sympathy with the Iranian nation in these difficult conditions.

Then President Hashemi-Rafsanjani thanked the president, government, and Muslim nation of Syria for their sympathy and said: We have always received the Syrian sympathy and accompaniment in the past and your presence here and Mr. Hafiz al-Asad's kindness are cause for encouragement and assurance for our nation and are a great deal of help in strengthening the people's morale and steadfastness.

Referring to his visit to the quake-stricken regions, Mr. Hashemi-Rafsanjani added: Fortunately as you mentioned our people have learnt resistance and patience against problems very well. Yesterday when I visited the region, there were areas where some families had members of their household beneath the debris and nonetheless were not complaining and at the same time, were facing difficulties cheerfully and thanking the people and the government for their help.

Our country's president added: Our good and self-sacrificing nation will take this national disaster as a divine test and we are happy with God's will.

At the end of his remarks, the president asked Mr. Faruq al-Shar' to convey his thanks and those of the Iranian nation to the president, government, and Muslim nation of Syria for their sympathy.

FRG, Egypt Send Supplies

LD2506114290 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian
1030 GMT 25 Jun 90

[Text] Eight West German military aircraft carrying field hospitals and 40 surgeons and specialist doctors arrived in Tehran this morning. Also, yesterday, a Transall cargo plane carrying 37 tonnes of provisions and tents arrived in Tehran. Tonight a West German jumbo jet is expected to land in Tehran carrying 100 tonnes of food and medical supplies. This aircraft will also be carrying a number of West German nonmedical specialists. In addition, the West German Red Cross has opened an account for donations for the earthquake-stricken victims in our country, the number of which is constantly broadcast from that country's radio and television.

Another two C-130 aircraft belonging to the Egyptian Air Force and carrying medical supplies landed at Mehrabad Airport this morning.

Foreign Supplies, Teams Arrive

LD2506091490 Tehran IRNA in English
0758 GMT 25 Jun 90

[Text] Tehran, June 25, IRNA—International relief supplies continue to pour into the country to help survivors of the last Thursday [21 June] devastating earthquake which ruined northern and northwestern Iran.

Two relief teams from the Muslim populated Soviet-Azerbaijan Republic, comprising 55 medical doctors and surgeons, 27 medical assistants, two nurses and 30 drivers arrived in Iran through Astara border, Sunday.

The team has also brought along 23 ambulances and the required medical supplies. A doctor of the team said that the Soviet Azerbaijanis had called for a general mobilisation and help the quake-stricken victims.

Meanwhile, Bangladesh has said it will dispatch a 21-member medical team with a remarkable amount of medicine, tents, blankets, and foodstuffs to Iran, Tuesday.

North Korea has also announced it will dispatch a medical team as well as one-million-dollar worth of relief aid for the quake-stricken people in the coming days.

Pakistan, Venezuela, and Kuwait are also due to send medical teams to Iran.

Medical teams from France, Soviet Union, Soviet Azerbaijan Republic, Soviet Nakhichevan Republic, and the humanitarian organisation Medecins Sans Frontiers are currently treating the quake victims.

Meanwhile, a technical-engineering team from the Soviet Nakhichevan Republic equipped with bulldozers, a mechanical shovel, a dump truck, and a mobile repair workshop for heavy machinery, entered Iran through Jolfa border point Sunday.

Nakhichevan Special Envoy on Aid

NC2606113990 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian
0430 GMT 26 Jun 90

[Text] The special envoy of the prime minister and people of the Autonomous Soviet Republic of Nakhichevan stressed the enthusiasm of the people and officials of his republic to help the victims of the recent quake in our country and said: In addition to financial aid, the Nakhichevan people have prepared a large number of hospitals in the republic to accept and treat 1,000 wounded.

He was speaking at a meeting with the Zanjan governor general yesterday. The envoy added: We are ready to use our republic's transportation means to transfer about 60,000 homeless people and house them in our hotels and homes.

The special envoy of the Nakhichevan prime minister and people added: We request that the esteemed official of the Islamic Republic of Iran assign to us the reconstruction of parts or some of the destroyed villages so that we can use our existing technical capabilities for building houses able to resist strong quakes, placing those capabilities at their disposal.

He added: We do not consider ourselves as separate from you and we are very sorry that the current developments in the Soviet Union started on a delayed basis, so that we were unable to hasten to help our Muslim Iranian brothers and sisters during the war.

Hashemi-Rafsanjani on Relief Needs

LD2206181690 Tehran Television Service in Persian
1454 GMT 22 Jun 90

[Interview with Iranian President Hashemi-Rafsanjani by unidentified correspondent on 22 June; place not given—recorded]

[Excerpts] Dear compatriots, following the extent of the casualties and losses from the earthquake in the northern provinces of the country, Mr. Hashemi-Rafsanjani, the president, today—accompanied by a number of cabinet ministers, the representative of the Vali-ye Faqih [supreme jurisconsult] in the Red Crescent, and the director general of the Red Crescent—inspected, for seven hours, towns and districts devastated by the earthquake in Rudbar, Manjil, and Lowshan. They inspected those regions by helicopter and also on foot.

At the end of the inspection, in an interview with our correspondent, the president answered questions about his inspections, relief work, needs of the region, and methods by which people's sincere help is used, and those of domestic institutions, as well as the possibility of cooperation with foreign institutions. The report has just reached us and we will see it together. It should be mentioned that the complete version of this interview will be broadcast on this television channel.

[Begin recording] [Unidentified correspondent] Your Excellency Mr. President, today you have talked to people victimized by the earthquake in Gilan and also inspected the region and talked to the officials from the relief organization there. Please tell us about your observations and the latest news in that regard.

[Hashemi-Rafsanjani] In the name of God, the compassionate, the merciful. First of all I should mention that, as we saw, the extent of the catastrophe is a lot more than what has been reported in words or through pictures. Our information indicates that the most severely hit places were the regions of Rudbar, Manjil, Lowshan, and the surrounding villages. In Rasht and its suburbs, Zanjan, and Qazvin and those places, because of the existing communication lines, relatively acceptable relief work has been going on from the first instance. Unfortunately, yesterday, on that sensitive day, there were no adequate levels of communication in the region because of falling rocks and the closure of roads. Communication and relief was implemented only by helicopters or some vehicles that could reach the area through shortcuts. That was at a time when those regions suffered most of the casualties.

Those three towns that I inspected, in particular Manjil and Rudbar, are completely destroyed. What is left of the town is not worth mentioning. There is no electricity, no water or other necessities which people need. Officials of the towns have been killed. The problem which exists is that the officials of the cities are no longer there to see the problems. Those who are helping have come from outside. Those that have survived, either deeply affected

or injured, can, at the most, witness problems around them and cannot even help their own problems. Worse than those areas are the surrounding villages. From above we could see some villages that have almost completely disappeared. Most of those villages are situated in mountainous regions where no proper communication routes exist for heavy vehicles to reach. As of today the helicopters have become quite active. [passage omitted]

[Correspondent] Some international organizations and foundations have asked Iran to announce its needs. What is your opinion on that as the Islamic Republic of Iran's president?

[Hashemi-Rafsanjani] We mainly rely on our domestic forces—those who sincerely work, and in particular I stress the efforts of Friday imams and other clergy who indeed shoulder the heavy burdens. As the extent of the work is extensive, and from the humanitarian point of view international help is needed, I think we should accept help that comes from various parts of the world. So far we have not rejected any help. There are some things that cannot be found in Iran, the list of which has been given by the Foreign Ministry to embassies to bring them from abroad. On the whole, I think attending to the victims with extensive domestic and international help can solve some of the problems, at least in the first few weeks. The basic problem of the region is reconstruction. The extent of the destruction as I witnessed it is such that everything has to be constructed anew, just like construction of a small country. That needs patience and time, and the government should allocate funds, people have to help, and I think longtime work is needed. [passage omitted]

[Correspondent] With regard to the continuous information that you receive, please tell us about the exact number of victims of the earthquake.

[Hashemi-Rafsanjani] I think the facts and figures are not exact because they are not centralized—in particular, facts and figures concerning villages. There is no discipline in the collection of statistics in the villages. Various groups work in towns. Of course efforts are made to collect the data in one place. The number given are approximate, but definitely the number of people killed are more than reported.

[Correspondent] Thank you. [end recording]

Shamkhani Visits Manjil

LD2306015690 Tehran IRNA in English
2105 GMT 22 Jun 90

[Text] Rudbar, Gilan Prov., June 22, IRNA—The dimensions of the disastrous earthquake which rocked a large area in northwestern Iran Thursday, became more evident with the relative improvement of the atmosphere to assess the extent of the damage caused in the hardest hit province—Gilan.

In Gilan everything has been affected by the strong tremor which jolted the area in the midnight Thursday [21 June].

with an intensity of 7.3 degrees on the Richter scale. The roads in the province, particularly in mountainous regions are buried under piles of rubble and stones. Relief operations to the town and villages not located along the main roads, are not possible except via air.

In Rudbar which had a population of over 100,000 before the devastating quake, most of the houses and the town's only hospital have been rased to the ground.

The number of casualties in this town is rising with the passage of each hour. Helicopters of Havaniruz, Air Force and Red Crescent society are moving victims from nearby villages to this city from where they are transferred to Rasht, the capital of Gilan, or other cities for further treatment.

Dead bodies are lying here and there in the streets or alley to be collected by relief workes and buried. Many cars and livestock have also been destroyed in the incident.

In the town of Manjil, southwest of here the extent of damage and number of casualties are high. At least 1,500 people have been buried in the town so far.

Meanwhile, Rear Admiral 'Ali Shamkhani arrived in Manjil Friday afternoon to inspect the Air Force garrison there which has been extensively damaged, and to coordinate relief operations by the air force to the victims.

Damage to Villages Detailed

LD2306122190 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian
1030 GMT 23 Jun 90

[Text] The headquarters in charge of earthquake victims, stationed at the Presidential Office, announced the casualty and damage figures in Gilan, Qazvin and Zanjan regions, as follows:

In Gilan Province, so far more than 12,000 of the injured have been treated on the spot and discharged; 1,400 have been hospitalized in Rasht; and 2,100 sent to Tehran hospitals.

The extent of the damage is as follows:

Rudbar area: 100 percent damage.

Lowshan and Manjil areas and villages near Rudbar; 90 percent damage.

Urban areas and Deylaman, Eshkevaran, and Rudsar areas; 30 to 40 percent damage.

Fuman and Masuleh area: 20 percent damage.

Up to 1300, casualty figures in Gilan, except Rudsar and Manjil, are:

Lahijan: 60 dead, 500 injured.

Ashtaneh (?Ashtafiyeh): Two dead, 100 wounded.

Rasht: 44 dead, 500 injured.

Fuman: 47 dead, 300 wounded.

The extent of the damage in Zanjan Province is as follows: Qazvin, Tarom-e Sofla: 65 villages totally destroyed, 15 villages received 10 to 40 percent damage, 226 killed and 1,500 wounded.

Rudbar-e Shahrestan: 90 villages received 10 to 60 percent damage, 275 killed and 550 injured.

Rudbar-e Alamut: 15 villages received 60 percent damage, 21 killed or wounded.

Rudbar-e Markazi: 20 villages received 30 to 80 percent damage, six dead and 100 injured.

Takestan: 60 villages destroyed, 327 dead and 650 wounded. In Qazvin and Zanjan, a total of 212 villages received between 30 to 100 percent damage.

114 Zanjan Villages Destroyed

LD2406090490 Tehran IRNA in English
0710 GMT 24 Jun 90

[Text] Zanjan, June 24, IRNA—114 villages in this northwestern province have been completely devastated, said Majles Vice-Speaker Hoojat ol-Eslam Asadollah Bayat who is currently inspecting relief operations and the headquarters set up in the city of Tarom-e Olya, one of the worst hit cities in the disastrous quake which hit the region last Thursday.

"The extent of damage and loss of life in these villages is so vast that the government forces, though doing their best, can do little to rescue the injured and help the survivors," Bayat said Sunday. Therefore, he added, "people must join in to help the victims."

The hoojat ol-eslam who is also Zanjan deputy in the Majles told IRNA "although large amount of medicine, canned food and clothings has been sent to the area but still there exists an urgent need for water, tent, clothing and medicine."

According to Bayat the farms and crops are perishing because the streams and canals irrigating them are blocked by rubbles. He said that necessary steps must be taken immediately to save the agriculture of the region.

360 After-Shocks Recorded

LD2406104790 Tehran IRNA in English
1001 GMT 24 Jun 90

[Text] Tehran, June 24, IRNA—Some 60 after-shocks have been recorded during the past 16 hours, said an official of Tehran University geophysics center at 10:00 local time (06:30 GMT) Sunday [24 June].

According to the official the strongest of these after-shocks measured 4.2, 3.8 and 3.9 degrees on the Richter scale which rocked areas 210 kms, 190 kms and 200 kms northwest of Tehran respectively.

He added that the last Thursday [21 June] earthquake which turned north and northwest Iran into rubbles, had caused massive destruction in a radius of 60 kms from the epicenter of the earthquake.

Moreover, he noted, the earthquake has created tremors in a radius of 500 kms.

He reiterated that earthquakes are unpredictable natural events and said that the wide-spread rumors on imminent strong earthquakes in certain places "are strongly refuted".

Since June 21 earthquake till 10:00 local time today, some 360 after-shocks have been recorded by the center.

Latest Relief Operations in Gilan

NC2606084490 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian
0430 GMT 26 Jun 90

[Recorded telephone report by correspondent in Rasht]

[Text] Six days after the soul-rending quake in Gilan Province, coordinated relief operations are continuing and with the arrival of thousands of relief workers and hundreds of tonnes of goods, a large part of the needs of the families affected by this tragic event has been met.

According to reports by the Gilan Province natural disasters headquarters, relief teams and technical-engineering groups have increased their efforts and have thus covered large parts of the quake-stricken areas in Rudbar, Manjil, Lowshan, and surrounding areas. The helicopters of the Army Air Corps of the Islamic Republic's Armed Forces are also flying over the quake-stricken areas to identify new areas that have been hit and are striving to assist the victims there.

The official in charge of the operations command of the Islamic Republic's Army Air Corps stationed in Gilan told our correspondents in an interview that since the first moments after this tragic incident, pilots of the Army Air Corps have logged 2,500 hours of flight time with 100 helicopters in the Gilan area, transferred more than 30,000 wounded people to hospitals and airports in Qazvin, Tehran, and Rasht, and carried 500,000 tonnes of goods to the quake-stricken areas.

Meanwhile, the managing director of the Gilan health organization said in an interview with our correspondent that just during the past two days, two medical teams and 150 relief workers from the Soviet Union, 35 relief workers from the International Red Cross, and various medical teams from Germany, Spain, France, and Syria have left for the quake-stricken areas in Gilan to help the wounded.

Reports also state that yesterday afternoon two relief teams consisting of doctors, specialists, geologists, and seismologists arrived through the Astara border in Gilan with advanced equipment and a convoy of relief items consisting of staple goods needed by the victims as well as a consignment of medicine valued at 46,646 rubles.

Other reports state that the Muslims in Soviet Azerbaijan and in Khalilabad, Astara, Pushkin, and Lankaran held mourning ceremonies and commemorated the people who were killed during the recent quake in Gilan and Zanjan.

Latest reports received from the Gilan province natural disasters headquarters indicate that so far out of the 27,796 people who were wounded during the tragic

quake in Gilan, 17,452 received first aid treatment while 7,955 were sent to hospitals in Tehran and other provinces for treatment.

The Gilan Province natural disasters headquarters has announced that the quake-stricken areas in Gilan Province urgently need nonperishable foodstuffs, clothing, canned foods, large tents, and light machinery.

Papers Comment on International Relief Efforts

JOMHURI-YE ESLAMI on Western 'Boasting'

LD2606105490 Tehran IRNA in English
1012 GMT 26 Jun 90

[Text] Tehran, June 26, IRNA—The morning daily 'JOMHURI-YE ESLAMI' in an inside page commentary Tuesday [26 June] lashed out at some foreign Western media for their propaganda abuse, magnifying the relief aid their governments have rendered to Iran.

The article titled: "Earthquake - Friends and Foes", said that the catastrophic Thursday earthquake was so extensive that it mobilized various nations and governments to rush to help the quake-stricken people.

"The issue is so serious that even some governments which have not fallen short of any hostility against our nation and have not missed any opportunity to avenge our people, have joined the group of the donors," wrote the daily.

But, the article stressed, some Western media especially those in France, Britain and the U.S. have launched a vicious propaganda fuss over the relief supplies donated by their governments.

"Of course, all governments have rendered relief aid on humanitarian grounds, but certain governments in utter meanness are boasting about it and showing off."

To this end, a number of British, French and American papers "are competing with each other in playing the role of a savior," said the commentary.

Even some people inside the country tried to play a similar role wrote the commentary in reference to those who have made comments on the possibility of predicting the earthquake.

"They talk in such a manner that prediction of the earthquake had been possible and that the officials had shown negligence in this respect," said the daily.

It concluded by saying that those who made the comments "intend to turn people's sentiments against the officials," stressing that these "irresponsible people" should know that there had been no negligence.

Other Dailies Divided

LD2606102190 Tehran IRNA in English
0741 GMT 26 Jun 90

[Text] Tehran, June 26, IRNA—Four morning dailies Tuesday devoted their editorials to the last Thursday's [21 June] devastating quake, one of the most tragic events in the Iranian history. All the dailies praised the mass mobilization and national solidarity displayed in helping the victims, but were divided on the humanitarian foreign assistance and the motives behind it.

The English-language daily 'KAYHAN INTERNATIONAL' in its editorial strongly criticized an earlier commentary by a Persian morning daily which had said that the quake-victims even from under the rubble chant 'Death to America' in reference to U.S. aid to the quake-victims.

The editorial titled "Irresponsible Penmanship" blamed such an approach - "exercise of narrow judgement by some newspapers" on Iran's not being used to a democratic traditions inherited from the past regime [sentence as received]. Therefore, "when it comes to exercising freedom we overdo it and get lost and don't know where to stop. We go beyond our limits," said the paper.

The daily referred to two examples of dealing with Turkey over the screening of a U.S. comedy feature "The Naked Gun" and the approach towards the massive humanitarian aid pouring into Iran from all over the world. Emphasizing the importance of Iran-Turkey ties the paper said that the officials are doing their best to sort it out and added, "Iran has almost been isolated from the entire world because of this irresponsible exercise of 'freedom of expression' by the press which have managed to make the entire world the enemy of Iran and have not stopped yet."

Describing the foreign relief aid to the quake victims and their sympathies as remarkable for which the Iranians are grateful it said, "having lost families, wives, children ... their whole belongings they (the victims) would not be in a position to say down with this or with that...it is very selfish of a newspaperman to sit in his air-conditioned office in Tehran and his family intact to ask quake survivors to say 'Down with America.'"

It concluded by citing a famous Iranian saying, "what blessing is a wise enemy if one is to have an ignorant friend," and added "a friend who cannot exercise correct judgement in time of crisis aptly belongs to the latter category."

The Persian daily 'ABRAR' said that these days are the best example of crystallization of national solidarity. Iranian men and women have been engaged in non-stop relief operations since the very first hours of the earthquake trying to do whatever they can to help their afflicted fellow countrymen.

'ABRAR' added that the catastrophe is of such a magnitude that prompted the world to rush to help the survivors.

Countries from Asia to Africa and from Europe to America have participated in the relief operations. On Monday, only within few hours at least 86 foreign planes laden with foodstuffs, medicines, clothings and many other supplies, needed in the quake-stricken towns and villages landed at Tehran's Mehrabad International Airport. "World-wide efforts are launched to help the victims of the severest earthquakes of the century," it added.

'ABRAR' advised that under such conditions, difference of tastes, lack of programs, coordination and organization should not be allowed to make people weary in their unceasing efforts in helping the victims and survivors and thus waste all the popular relief aid and unprecedented efforts of the relief workers.

The daily stressed on utilization of any help in soothing the anguish and pain of the survivors, saving the injured and returning life to normal in quake-devastated areas.

The other English daily, 'TEHRAN TIMES', editorializing on international relief assistance pouring into the country said, "our Islamic ideology urges us to laud such cooperations that can alleviate the pains and sufferings of so many human beings."

It also praised giving precedence to humanitarian considerations over political relations and considered it a positive aspect of international and humanitarian norms.

The daily stressed that any country may be hit by natural disasters and international assistance and relief supplies extended irrespective of political and economic motives can save human life and extensively assist the suffering country.

The editorial praised the Iranian nation for their generous participation in helping their fellow countrymen and the government for mobilizing all its resources to this end.

Referring to the messages of sympathy and condolences and the relief supplies sent by world bodies, it said, "from this angle the humanitarian reaction shown to the Iranian earthquake victims once again proved that there are things within whose framework of international community can cooperate beyond political considerations."

The Persian daily 'JOMHURI-YE ESLAMI' in its editorial Tuesday once again lashed out at the former regime for having neglected to observe and apply the safety standards in home construction and buildings.

The editorial titled: "The Need To Set a Standard for Quake-Resistant Buildings", noted that the former regime's negligence in this connection was due to its subservience to the alien powers.

The former monarchical regime was fully engaged in plundering public wealth in the interests of its masters, it said.

The daily wrote that to date, after ten years of resistance against plots of the enemies, it is time to pay more attention to the structure of the buildings both in urban and rural areas, especially areas located on the earthquake prone belt.

The article called on the relevant organisations, especially the housing ministry, to set an appropriate standard for buildings which will be resistant to earthquake.

To this end, the paper concluded, required technology and know-how of scientific centers could be employed.

Swiss Criticized Over Rajavi Investigation

LD2506102490 Tehran IRNA in English
0936 GMT 25 Jun 90

[Text] Tehran, June 25, IRNA—Iran Monday termed as "baseless" allegations of some western mass media accusing Iranian officials of involvement in the assassination of Kazem Rajavi, brother of the leader of the Monafeqin [hypocrites—term for Mojahedin-e Khalq] terrorist organisation, Masud Rajavi.

Foreign Ministry spokesman Morteza Sarmadi stressed that since the murder some two months ago, "certain elements including the ring leaders of the Monafeqin grouplet have been attempting to attribute the murder to others in order to cover up their inter-organisational rifts and political crisis."

More astonishing, he added, "Is the attitude of some judicial and security circles in Switzerland, who while being fully aware of the baselessness of [the] Monafeqin's fabrications, are serving certain political objectives of this organisation through their irresponsible statements."

Sarmadi expressed hope that the Swiss judicial officials, through their thorough and fair investigation of the case conducted away from any pre-judgement "prevent materialisation of conspiracies and plots of enemies of the Iranian nation and the government."

Velayati To Meet Perez de Cuellar in Geneva

LD2206211190 Tehran in English to Europe
1930 GMT 22 Jun 90

[Text] The Islamic Republic of Iran has informed the UN secretary general that the Iranian Foreign Minister Mr. Velayati is prepared to meet him in Geneva in July. The announcement has come following [Perez] de Cuellar's call on the foreign ministers of Iran and Iraq to pursue the peace talks. Iran's permanent representative at the United Nations Mr. Kamal Kharrazi said that he has informed the secretary general of his agreement with the meeting which should be a prelude to [Perez] de Cuellar's trip to the region. According to diplomatic sources at the United Nations Iraq has also agreed to the meeting in Geneva.

UN Afghan Specialist Arrives in Tehran

LD2506121890 Tehran IRNA in English
1118 GMT 25 Jun 90

[Text] Tehran, June 25, IRNA—The U.N. under-secretary general for Afghanistan affairs, Benan Sevan arrived here

Sunday night and was welcomed by Deputy Foreign Minister for International Affairs Manuchehr Mottaki.

During his stay here, the U.N. senior official is to talk with Iranian authorities on the latest developments in connection with the Afghanistan issue.

Paper Calls U.S. 'Loser' in Hostage Issue

PM1506135690 Tehran KEYHAN HAVAI in Persian 6
Jun 90 p 8

[Editorial: "The U.S.—Escaping a Loss of Face"]

[Text] A while ago when two American hostages were freed by Lebanese groups, we announced that the United States would be the loser in the hostage issue. Now that we can see the actions taken by the United States, we see that signs of Washington being a loser are emerging. The recent actions by the United States and their response to the release of the hostages look more like the struggles of someone who has lost face, who is trying to lessen the psychological pressure in any way possible or to divert attention onto others. One of the U.S. Government's actions to overshadow the release of the two hostages was to publish a report on the destruction of the Pan Am jetliner. The Western media and the VOA gave wide coverage to the report, including a press conference given by the families of the American victims of the air crash. These news items and the report accused the Islamic Republic of Iran of being involved in terrorism and having a hand in the crash. They included a quote from one of the Americans, a member of the committee of the Pan American martyrs, saying that while the jury was debating whether or not Iran was at fault, the U.S. President should not thank the Iranian regime for its help in freeing two hostages from Lebanon. Why was the U.S. Government itself prepared to pay damages to Iranian families of martyrs killed when their airliner was accidentally downed!

The aim of citing these matters is to make people forget the fact that Bush has taken back his expressions of gratitude and actions such as awarding a medal for bravery to the captain of the "Vincennes." They are aimed at finding an excuse for the faulty U.S. conduct and response during the hostage issue. Of course, in another propaganda move the United States pretended to take a so-called step toward the release of Iranian hostages, to show that it is not indifferent to the release of the American hostages, that it is taking some reciprocal action. But it is unlikely that even this will make up for the improper action by the United States. Recently the White House announced that it had given some information about four Iranian hostages to Iran. The White House spokesman added that this information has been given as a humanitarian gesture, that the United States was not expecting any action for its own hostages in return.

Of course, the nature of the information given can explain the U.S. propaganda move, because according to this information the Iranian hostages are not alive, so the

United States cannot do anything for their release! Meanwhile, Michel 'Awn announced a short time ago that the four Iranian hostages are alive and being kept by Christian forces. The Iranian Foreign Ministry, in an official statement, also announced that according to information received, the Iranian hostages are alive.

Of course, the Americans have to undertake some action in exchange for the release of their hostages. By releasing the Iranian hostages and the Lebanese in the hands of the Israelis, they should prepare the ground for the release of the rest of the Western hostages. Otherwise the issue of hostage taking will get worse in Lebanon and the United States will lose even more of its dignity in world public opinion and, as we said before, will come out the loser.

Paper Suggests 'Warning' To Turkey on 'Insults'

*LD2006173790 Tehran IRNA in English 1630 GMT
20 Jun 90*

[Text] Tehran, June 20, IRNA—A Persian daily today suggested downgrading of economic ties with Turkey and recalling the Iranian ambassador from Ankara as a "warning" to that country, in view of the smearing campaign underway in Turkey against Islamic Iran and Islamic values. Fearful of the Islamic awareness currently sweeping across Turkey, the press there has taken a hostile attitude towards Iran, while cinemas in Ankara and Istanbul continue to screen an obscene American film 'The Naked Gun' which insults the revolutionary values of the Muslim people of Iran, said the daily 'ETTELA'AT'.

"Probably Ankara thinks that Tehran is unable to react in an appropriate diplomatic manner in this regard," said the daily. It drew attention to the fact that over the recent years Turkey has failed to understand mutual interests in relations with its neighbours, and therefore, has put at stake the future of its relations, particularly with the Islamic Republic.

"The present difficulties in Ankara's ties with its neighbours (Syria, Iraq and Iran) in fact reveals the lack of maturity in Turkish policy towards the Middle East," the daily believed. It said although Iran's relations with Turkey and Pakistan have significantly expanded particularly from the economic point of view, that does not mean Ankara is free to play with others' sentiments, heedless of the detrimental consequences.

***Musavian: No Insistence on Rushdie's Sentence**

*90AS0139A London KEYHAN in Persian
7 Jun 90 pp 1, 3*

[Text] In a Tehran interview with the weekly SUNDAY TIMES, the America and Europe political director general in the Islamic Republic's Ministry of Foreign Affairs announced that the Islamic government is no longer insisting on implementation of the order to kill Salman Rushdie. For the establishment of relations with England, it will be sufficient if the government of this

nation will condemn Rushdie's writing of "The Satanic Verses," and declare its opposition to the showing of disrespect to things sacred to Muslims.

Marie Calvin, reporter for the SUNDAY TIMES, who went to Tehran to take part in ceremonies observing the first anniversary of the death of Ayatollah Khomeini, sent a report to London about her recorded interview with Musavian at Iran's Foreign Ministry, and she said that Musavian's remarks were a basic and effective step towards improving relations with the Islamic Republic, and opening the way to the release of English hostages in Lebanon.

Musavian, presented as a key player in the government of Hashemi-Rafsanjani, was quoted by the reporter as saying: If Douglas Hurd, the English Foreign Minister, announces that his government respects Islam and Muslims and that it decries insults to Islam such as those in the book "The Satanic Verses," that will remove the greatest obstacle to improving relations between Iran and England, and consequently it will open the way for talks and resumed relations.

Musavian then emphasized that such a step by the English foreign minister would facilitate the release of the English hostages being held by Hezbollah kidnappers in Lebanon.

Musavian claimed that the Islamic Republic is pursuing the release of Western hostages in Lebanon for humanitarian reasons, but the kidnappers say that there has been no positive step from America as a gesture of gratitude since they released two American hostages.

The SUNDAY TIMES reporter, who said that the remarks from the Islamic Republic's Foreign Ministry manager were an important step in the sensitive atmosphere prevailing in the ruling apparatus during the ceremonies observing the first anniversary of the death of Khomeini, writes that the change in position by the Islamic Republic regime can be seen as a dangerous gamble by Hashemi-Rafsanjani. Mary Calvin writes that Rafsanjani ordered Musavian to grant the interview and to express these views.

According to the SUNDAY TIMES, the failure to insist on implementation of Ayatollah Khomeini's decree, and only a year after his death, is purely because of the economic frustration and chaos prevailing in Iran, whose ailing economy is faced with at least 60 percent inflation, while the regime is saddled with heavy debts.

In his tape-recorded interview, Musavian stressed several times that the Islamic government never intended to carry out Ayatollah Khomeini's decree and that the Majles has never called for the killing of Salman Rushdie.

Concerning the order to kill Salman Rushdie, the director general of the Islamic Foreign Ministry said that the order to kill Salman Rushdie was confirmation and is a declaration of a 1400-year-old Islamic law, on the basis of which the punishment for apostasy is death.

In her report for the SUNDAY TIMES, Mary Calvin discussed the problems Hashemi-Rafsanjani is facing concerning the order to kill Salman Rushdie, relations with the West and avoiding clashes with the Islamic hard-liners.

Three months ago, Hashemi-Rafsanjani himself, in a Friday prayer sermon, discussed the removal of obstacles to relations with England, resolving the Salman Rushdie problem and similar problems. He regarded Ayatollah Khomeyni's decree as an "expert opinion" that could be issued by any other theologian or person with independent discretion in matters of religious jurisprudence. He stressed the point that the Islamic Republic is not especially insisting on the implementation of this decree, but his statement met with immediate protests. The next day Sheikh Mohammad Yazdi, chief of the judiciary power, officially rejected Hashemi-Rafsanjani's view and declared that Ayatollah Khomeyni's order to kill Salman Rushdie is mandatory, is not to be seen in any way as an expert view, and cannot be cancelled by anyone.

View of the English Foreign Minister

A copy of the taped interview between the SUNDAY TIMES reporter and the Europe and America political director general of the Foreign Ministry of the Islamic Republic, which was sent to London immediately, was carefully studied by experts in the English Foreign Ministry.

Douglas Hurd, the English foreign minister, who was in Saudi Arabia when this news was released, said in reaction to Musavian's statements: Britain has always recognized and respected Islam and Muslims, but it is not under any circumstances prepared to accept the Islamic Republic's threats against Salman Rushdie. Douglas Hurd declined to condemn Salman Rushdie.

English Prime Minister's Statements

Concerning the Islamic Republic's proposal to improve relations in an interview with the BBC, the English prime minister Mrs. Thatcher said: It appears the Iranians are extending us another olive branch. She added: Although we have deep respect for Islam, we cannot deny freedom of speech to the people of this country.

Mrs. Thatcher declined to rebuke Salman Rushdie. She said: Christians and Muslims hate to have their sacred values insulted, but there is no doubt that these religions can easily continue with their lives, despite statements from some people who seek to make propaganda and say these things because of their lack of interest in religion.

Musavian's Denial

The director general of the Islamic Republic's Foreign Ministry, who recognized the sensitivity of the situation one day after his interview with the SUNDAY TIMES was published, in an interview Sunday with BBC television correspondent John Simpson, who was in Tehran,

denied his statements to the SUNDAY TIMES. He did not allow cameramen to film him during the interview.

Although it is expected that Musavian's remarks will receive a sharp reaction from Sheikh Mohammad Yazdi with regard to Ayatollah Khomeyni's decree and will be opposed by Mohtashemi's group, some political observers expect that even the regime of the Islamic Republic's hard-line faction, under the pressure of economics and chaotic social conditions, has concluded that it cannot remain in isolation any longer keeping the people in hardship. Therefore, they have stopped giving hard-line reactions in these matters where it could obstruct improvement in relations with the west.

*Life of Tudeh Party Secretary General Endangered

90AS0139R London KEYHAN in Persian
 31 May 90 pp 1, 9

[Text] Following a visit last month by Galindo Pohl, special envoy to Tehran from the United Nations Human Rights Commission, with Dr. Nureddin Kiyanuri at Evin Prison and disclosure of crimes and torture against prisoners in the prison, Evin Prison officials cut off visiting rights to Nureddin Kiyanuri and his wife. Usually people who lose visiting rights in Evin Prison are in danger of losing their lives, and after a period of time the regime executes them.

Nureddin Kiyanuri is the former secretary general of the Tudeh Party of Iran. Seven years ago he was arrested and imprisoned, along with a group of Tudeh Party leaders. During Galindo Pohl's visit to Evin Prison, in the presence of Evin Prison officials and prison workers, he showed his hands to the UN envoy, which were paralyzed due to torture and said they had tortured him repeatedly. Parts of his hands had been paralyzed as the result of this torture. Dr. Nureddin Kiyanuri rejected the regime's claim of having given him a fair trial, and said that in his trial they did not allow him to select a defense lawyer.

During Galindo Pohl's visit with Nureddin Kiyanuri, another Tudeh Party leader and a local leader were also present. Galindo Pohl did not give their names, at their own request.

At this same meeting at Evin Prison, Nureddin Kiyanuri "vehemently denied accusations against him that he had spied for a foreign power and plotted to overthrow the revolutionary government," and "he showed his hands, which were partly paralyzed, and his crushed fingers, and he discussed beatings, injuries, and other humiliating and painful punishments against him in the presence of the Evin Prison warden and prison workers."

In his report, Galindo Pohl stipulated that:

"Dr. Nureddin Kiyanuri was under severe psychological pressure, and his conduct was a mixture of protest and despair."

Tudeh Party Asks Iranian People to Help

After visiting rights were taken away from Nureddin Kiyanuri and his wife, Ms. Maryam Firuz, the Tudeh Party of Iran asked Iranians and freedom-loving people to help save their lives.

In the statement from the Tudeh Party of Iran titled "Compatriots! Freedom-Loving People! Hands Are Held out in Supplication to You to Save Nureddin Kiyanuri and Maryam Firuz," it said:

"The lives of comrades Nureddin Kiyanuri and Maryam Firuz are in danger. These two Tudeh political prisoners were denied visiting rights in the month of Farvardin [21 March-20 April] this year. Once again they are being subjected to physical and psychological pressures and being deprived of the most basic rights to life, judicial process, and humanity for a political prisoner to the point that their will and stability have been broken.

"The denial of visiting rights to comrade Nureddin Kiyanuri and Maryam Firuz and the intensification of torment and pressure on them was and is neither accidental nor unexpected, because following the measures taken by Nureddin Kiyanuri, first secretary of the Tudeh Party of Iran, and other groups of people during a visit by the delegation from the Human Rights Commission of the United Nations at Evin Prison and the disclosure of the hellish conditions prevailing in the "velayat-e faqih's [rule of the supreme jurisconsult]" regime's freedom-killing pits and torture chambers, there was a definite and serious fear that this group of political prisoners would be the target of vengeance for the Islamic Republic's devils. This reality has been reflected in repeated warnings published in NAMEH-YE MARDOM.

"There is every indication that Nureddin Kiyanuri and Maryam Firuz have been selected as the first victims of new plotting by the regime. This selection, for various reasons, has been fully calculated."

Pakistan

Bhutto Interviewed on Conflict Over Kashmir

PM2506150490 Paris LE FIGARO in French
22 Jun 90 p 4

[Interview with Pakistani Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto by Remi Favret—place and date not given]

[Text] [Favret] With regard to Kashmir, India and Pakistan have stopped just short of war. What can you do to finally solve this problem or at least to reduce tension?

[Bhutto] The risk of war remains and will remain until the root of this crisis—the problem of Jammu and Kashmir—has been solved. There can be no comprehensive and lasting peace in South Asia while the problem of Jammu and Kashmir remains. We have proposed seeking a solution either by bilateral negotiations with India or international negotiations on the basis of the

Simla agreement or appropriate UN resolutions. Moreover, the Simla agreement, concluded in 1974 following the 1971 war, is based on UN resolutions. Until a permanent peace has been achieved on this basis, relations between India and Pakistan will unfortunately continue to be troubled.

[Favret] Many people in Pakistan are talking of war as if it were imminent. Are you seriously envisaging such a hypothesis?

[Bhutto] I do not want to see war break out. Even if many people in my country say that they are prepared to fight tomorrow, I know that wars are not only costly, they are deadly. We want to end poverty. We want to see our countries developing, not plunging into ruin and misfortune.... My government has made every effort to allay the tension with India, and to normalize relations. But history reminds us that Kashmir will constantly resurface between us: Two wars have not brought a solution. Let us not fight a third.

[Favret] What can you do in practical terms?

[Bhutto] It is by peace that we will solve this dispute. We will solve it without emotion, by direct dialogue and normal relations. The threat to peace has not disappeared but the exchange of proposals between our two countries is a positive sign. We have thus gained time to seek a peaceful path. I think it is important, initially, to adopt measures which will restore confidence between our two countries, like the return of troops to their previous position and the reinforcement of surveillance along the monitoring line. We have even proposed that these observers should come and verify the allegations of subversion made by India against Pakistan and the allegations which Pakistan has made against India.

[Favret] But the Indians and Pakistanis are still opposed on the essential issues. India thinks that the Kashmir crisis is a local problem, whereas you see it as an international problem.

[Bhutto] Let the Kashmir people decide! Why should India or Pakistan impose their will on them? It is the Kashmir people who staged an uprising, who are demanding the right to self-determination and are now risking their lives in the streets to end Indian domination. I do not think that either Pakistan or India has the right to decide for them. At a time when Eastern Europe is choosing its fate and ending communist domination, we cannot refuse the inhabitants of Kashmir the same freedom. I think all the facts indicate that Kashmir will choose to join Pakistan in the spirit of the UN resolutions.

[Favret] Your country denies that it is giving any direct support to the mujahidin fighting against the Indian army. However, private Pakistani groups and political parties are openly supplying them with material and quasi military aid....

[Bhutto] We are giving every possible moral and diplomatic support to the Kashmir people, but we are

opposed to violence. I believe in the power of the people—the "people power" which forced an end to the dictatorship in the Philippines and in Pakistan, which forced the release of that extraordinary man Nelson Mandela, which has changed the course of history in Eastern Europe. This people's power is the most powerful weapon and I am sure that it will bring victory to the people of Jammu and Kashmir.

[Favret] What about the private Pakistani aid?

[Bhutto] Aid from private groups which you mention must in fact be limited to a few public relations operations. It is wrong to believe that Pakistan is inspiring, leading, or training any armed movement. The objective reason for the violence in Kashmir is the Indian authorities' indifference to the population's welfare and the brutality of the repression. When the army shoots at people demonstrating peacefully in the street, it is impossible to rule out an escalation in the violence. The world was shocked by the massacre in Tiananmen Square. But there are tens of Tiananmen massacres in Kashmir every day....

[Favret] While India is facing the crisis in Kashmir, you are facing a crisis in Sind. The army has been deployed in the streets of Karachi. Does this not augur badly for your democracy?

[Bhutto] We are determined to combat terrorism in all its forms because we are also the victims of a terrorism manipulated by foreign countries. In the past, we have had discussions with India about terrorism in the eastern Punjab. This could all be included on the agenda of peace negotiations.... Democracy is impossible outside a state based on law. We have our own Red Brigades, and you in Europe know that terrorism is not an easy scourge to overcome. The inhabitants of Sind want to shake off the reign of terror, be it the terror of political groups, or of gangs of criminals which we in our country call "dacoits" who specialize in kidnapping, extortion, murder, and torture. Unfortunately, the war in Afghanistan left us a sad legacy: the Kalashnikov and heroin. It is because of this legacy that young people, frustrated because they are unemployed, now find it easier to take up a gun to earn money. The ethnic groups are exploiting this situation in Sind.

[Favret] Can you tackle terrorism and drugs, which are destabilizing factors?

[Bhutto] Drugs are closely linked with terrorism. My government must move forward on various fronts at the same time. But I think it is essential to solve the problem of terrorism in Sind. The people are living under the terror of groups which are better armed than the police. That is why I am appealing to the armed forces. And I think that the violence in Sind is linked to violence in Kashmir.

[Favret] Will India and Pakistan reach a deal: peace in Sind in exchange for peace in Kashmir?

[Bhutto] The two situations are not comparable. In Kashmir, the people are fighting against Indian domination. In Sind all sides are seeking a common platform. So far they have been prevented from achieving that by terrorist elements who have infiltrated the ethnic parties. Some of those parties even have torture chambers which the army discovered. We must remove the terrorists so that we can talk with the politicians. When the rule of law has been restored, a majority will emerge to negotiate....

Spokesman on Kashmir Issue at Cairo ICO Meeting

*BK2506013290 Islamabad Domestic Service in Urdu
0100 GMT 25 Jun 90*

[Text] Pakistan has appealed to the Islamic Conference Organization [ICO] to include the Kashmir issue in the agenda of the foreign ministers conference to be held in Cairo. A Foreign Office spokesman has said that the text of Pakistan's appeal has been distributed in the member countries of the organization. Prior to the ministerial meeting, the Kashmir question and all other issues connected with the draft of the agenda will be discussed and given final shape at the senior officials meeting to be held in Cairo on 28 July. The spokesman was commenting on the reports published in some newspapers, which stated that the Kashmir issue is not included in the agenda of the forthcoming ICO foreign ministers conference.

Army Expels Ziaul Haq's Son From Hyderabad

*BK2406141290 Hong Kong AFP in English
1400 GMT 24 Jun 90*

[Text] Karachi, June 24 (AFP)—The Army has expelled the eldest son of Pakistan's late military dictator General Mohammad Ziaul Haq from a southern city, local newspapers reported Sunday [24 June].

The reports said Ejazul Haq was escorted out of Hyderabad in Sindh Province on Saturday after he announced his intention of launching an anti-government movement from June 30.

A military spokesman here said the action was taken because Mr. Haq violated a section of the country's penal code which prohibits public assemblies of more than four people. Mr. Haq, addressing a crowd in Hyderabad on Saturday, accused the government of Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto of hatching a conspiracy against Urdu-speaking Muhajirs in Sindh, the reports said.

Scores of people died in Hyderabad during ethnic clashes in May that prompted the deployment of troops in the city. Ethnic tensions run high between Muhajirs, settlers from India, and native Sindhis.

Mr. Haq, the eldest son of the former military ruler who died in a plane crash on August 17, 1988, has advocated the reimposition of martial law in Pakistan.

He was provided a crowd in Hyderabad by supporters of the opposition Muhajir Qaumi Movement (MQM), who

carried pictures of Gen. Ziaul Haq and chanted slogans against Ms. Bhutto, the reports said.

They added that Mr. Haq was accompanied by MQM information secretary Aminul Haq and the mayor of Hyderabad.

A military spokesman here said Sunday that Mr. Haq was escorted out of Hyderabad by the Army because he was violating Section 144 of the Pakistan Penal Code, which prohibits public assembly of more than four people.

Assemblies of more than four people were banned to prevent a recurrence of the recent ethnic violence in Hyderabad.

Mr. Haq was whisked away just before he was to address a news conference.

Unidentified Gunmen Kill Balochistan Minister
BK2206162190 Islamabad Domestic Service in Urdu
1500 GMT 22 Jun 90

[Excerpt] Unidentified gunmen shot and killed Balochistan's minister without portfolio, Haji Eid Mohammad Murtazai, in a mosque during the Friday congregation in Quetta today. Five persons, including two children, were injured in the indiscriminate firing which took place while prayers were being offered. Of the injured, three persons, including a child, died later in hospital.

Balochistan Chief Minister Nawab Mohammad Akbar Khan Bugti, provincial ministers, members of the provincial assembly, and people from various walks of life visited the house of the deceased minister and expressed deep sorrow and anguish. His kith and kin and some provincial ministers have left Quetta with the body of the minister for his native town of Dalband, where he will be buried tomorrow. The Balochistan government has announced Saturday [23 June] as a public holiday for the province to mourn the death of the late leader. The provincial assembly secretariat will also remain closed tomorrow and the session scheduled for tomorrow afternoon will be held on Sunday afternoon [24 June]. President Ghulam Ishaq Khan and Prime Minister Ms. Benazir Bhutto have expressed deep sorrow over the dastardly killing of Haji Eid Mohammad Murtazai. [passage omitted]

Sri Lanka

Government Forces Continue Action in North, East

Heavy LTTE Casualties

BK2306091090 Colombo LANKAPUVATH in English
0818 GMT 23 Jun 90

["OANA/Pool" item]

[Text] Colombo, 23 June (LANKAPUVATH)—Sri Lanka's security forces have destroyed 40 LTTE [Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam] bunkers and killed about

15 terrorists in a battle on the outskirts of Trincomalee, in the third mile post, last night (Friday).

Official sources told LANKAPUVATH that the Sri Lanka air force had air dropped food to the 240 troops and policemen who have been under siege and have successfully repulsed LTTE attacks on the Jaffna Fort for 12 days, inflicting heavy losses on the enemy in the exchange of fire.

At the Palali airbase in Jaffna, government troops have moved out of the camp and were reported continuing to clear the area around the base of LTTE terrorists.

At Kiran, the LTTE suffered heavy casualties as the security forces overran five bunkers and destroyed five improvised explosive devices.

The security forces destroyed four terrorist hideouts, killed four LTTE cadres and wounded eight at Vavuniya.

At Periyakulam, the security forces inflicted heavy casualties on the LTTE, while four soldiers were killed and 10 wounded.

An LTTE boat was destroyed at Velvettiturai.

200,000 Rendered Homeless

BK2306090690 Delhi Domestic Service in English
0830 GMT 23 Jun 90

[Text] In Sri Lanka, more than 200,000 people have been rendered homeless in the Northeast Province due to heavy fighting between the security forces and the LTTE since the 11th of June. Official sources said in Colombo that a majority of the refugees have taken shelter in school buildings and temples. Efforts are on to persuade the displaced persons to return to their homes. The largest number of refugees are in Batticaloa District—80,000 in number. The number of refugees in the northern Jaffna peninsula is not known as all communication channels with the civil authorities in the area have been cut off.

Meanwhile, the Sri Lankan Government has appealed to the international community for support and assistance in its fight against the militants. A government spokesman expressed the hope that economic and moral support would be forthcoming from friendly countries abroad.

Though the Sri Lankan Government is claiming to have regained control of most areas of the east, agency reports give the picture otherwise. The ASSOCIATED PRESS says militants appear to control large areas of Batticaloa town which the government claims to have captured. The agency message says government troops only control an air strip of the town's outskirts.

Security Forces Advance

BK2306134890 Colombo LANKAPUVATH in English
1226 GMT 23 Jun 90

["OANA/Pool" item]

[Text] Colombo, June 23 (LANKAPUVATH)—During the last 24 hours ending 12 noon today, the Sri Lankan security forces made several advances on all fronts in the Northern and Eastern Provinces. In the northern sector, the Jaffna Fort continued to remain under siege. The LTTE terrorists continued to attack the fort with mortars, rockets, grenades and small arms fire. Even though attempts were made to air-drop food and urgent medical supplies to a large number of security services personnel and policemen marooned in the Jaffna Fort, it was unsuccessful in the face of attacks directed on helicopters, states a press release issued by the Information Department today. The release further states that at Kankasanturai, the security forces continued their clearing operations and have done so up to Myliddy. In this operation, one soldier died and 6 were seriously injured.

In Valvettiturai, a Sri Lanka Navy patrol destroyed a terrorist fibre glass boat carrying explosives. At Kondachchi in Mannar District, the Army camp which was re-established was attacked once again. In the counter attack by the Sri Lanka Army, eleven LTTE terrorists died. The advancing troops attacked an LTTE terrorist base at Nelumkulama on the Vavuniya-Mannar road. They destroyed 8 bunkers, and 4 fortified positions causing heavy casualties to terrorists. In Vavuniya, the security forces have encountered many obstacles, during the clearing operations, four soldiers died and five have been injured. It is reported that many civilians including children have been injured by mines, booby traps and explosive devices laid by the LTTE terrorists to counter troops movements in this area.

In the Eastern Province, the Sri Lanka security forces made several advances in the Trincomalee District. They attacked and destroyed an LTTE terrorist base with 40 bunkers. In the Batticaloa District, many roads have been cleared for normal traffic. Several soldiers have been seriously injured due to exploding mines and booby traps. The fleeing terrorists in the Eastern Province are reported to have looted houses and boutiques for food, money and jewellery.

In Amparai District, the security forces arrested over 100 terrorist suspects. During their operations, the security forces have recovered a large number of claymore mines, mortars, pressure-mines, ammunition, camouflage uniforms, explosive devices and sharp weapons.

The commissioner-general of essential services is taking urgent steps to distribute food and other essential supplies to the civilian population of the Trincomalee, Batticaloa and Amparai districts affected by the dislocation of supplies. While there are plentiful stocks of food distribution systems have been affected and the air-dropping of food parcels has been activated. The commissioner-general of essential services said this morning that basic food items have been distributed to refugees and those rendered destitute, by air, sea and road. As the main lines of transport to the Eastern Province have

been re-opened, he is planning to move at least 100 tons of food items to the Eastern Province during the course of the next 24 hours.

The inflow of contributions to the national defence fund is said to be unprecedented. By 6.00 PM yesterday, the collection stood at Rs. [rupees] 13.5 million and a further U.S. dollars 3000 in foreign exchange.

All branches of the Bank of Ceylon and the People's Bank have been authorised to receive and transmit donations to the national defence fund. Some of the donations, as in the case of a driver at the presidential secretariat handing over his entire month's salary for the month of June, appears unbelievable. It is symbolic of the people's desire to totally eliminate the terrorist menace.

It is understood that some collection campaigns have been organised by unscrupulous persons in several areas. The Ministry of Defence wishes to inform the public that no person or organisation has been authorised to collect funds on behalf of the national defence fund.

The secretary to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs has authorised the Sri Lanka missions abroad to receive donations from Sri Lankan living abroad and other well-wishers and channel same into the national defence fund. In the wake of the mass murder of 13 leading EPRLF [Eelam People's Revolutionary Liberation Front] members in Madras by the LTTE terrorists, it has been decided by the government that vigilance committees be established in all urban and rural areas in the island on the basis of one per village and one per ward.

The minister of public administration, provincial councils and home affairs has been appointed as the co-ordinator of this programme. He has been charged with the onerous responsibility of establishing 25,000 village level vigilance committees and 3,000 vigilance committees in urban areas.

Security Forces Consolidate Position

BK2406130090 Delhi Domestic Service in English
1230 GMT 24 Jun 90

[Excerpt] In Sri Lanka, 16 soldiers and 11 LTTE militants were killed in two separate incidents since yesterday in the Northern and Eastern Provinces. An official communique issued in Colombo today announced that 11 LTTE men and several soldiers were killed in an encounter on the Kankasanturai-Tondaimannar road in the Northern Province. The LTTE exploded a land mine on the (Padavia)-Attimodda (?road), killing nine soldiers in the Eastern Province. A spokesman of the Joint Operations Command told our Colombo correspondent, Karupaswami, that the security forces have further consolidated their position in the Northern and Eastern Provinces. [passage omitted]

LTTE Controls 'Vast' Area

BK2406161990 *Delhi Domestic Service in English*
1530 GMT 24 Jun 90

[Text] In Sri Lanka, 33 people were killed including 19 security personnel in the northeast since yesterday. According to official reports, 14 LTTE militants were killed in separate incidents as fierce fighting continued in northern Jaffna. An official communique issued in Colombo today said 11 militants and seven soldiers were killed in an encounter in the Northern Province yesterday. The LTTE exploded a land mine killing nine soldiers and injuring three others in the Eastern Province.

Meanwhile, the residents of Eastern Province said that contrary to the Sri Lankan Government's claim, the LTTE militants still control a vast area in the province. They said the security forces are in control only of areas around their camps and major towns. However, a spokesman of the joint operation command told our Colombo correspondent, Karupaswami, that the security forces have further consolidated their positions in the Northeastern Province.

Forces Move To Free Jaffna Fort

BK2506150990 *Delhi Domestic Service in English*
1430 GMT 25 Jun 90

[Text] In Sri Lanka, the Army and Air Force units have started combined operations to free Jaffna Fort under siege. About 225 policemen and soldiers have been trapped in the fort. Simultaneously, the attacks on the fort have become intensified by the LTTE since last night. Our Colombo correspondent, A. Karupaswami, reports that the Jaffna Fort has been under siege by the LTTE for the last 15 days.

Speaking to newsmen in Colombo this morning, the Sri Lankan minister for defense, Mr. Ranjan Wijeratne, said that the Air Force has been dropping leaflets in Jaffna peninsula requesting civilians residing near the LTTE camps to evacuate because of more military action contemplated to relieve the besieged fort.

Situation in North, East Updated

BK2606113290 *Colombo International Service in English* 1045 GMT 26 Jun 90

[Text] The security situation in the north and east remained unchanged in the 24 hours ending at noon yesterday. The Ministry of Defense, in the statement issued through the department of information, said that in the northern sector, Army and Air Force units commenced combined operations at dawn to relieve the siege of the Jaffna Fort. The aim of the operation was to reinforce the fort and bring relief to those who are injured.

At Palali, security forces stand out from the Palali Air Base clearing the area. The Palali-Kankesanthurai junction has been secured. In Kankesanthurai, an army detachment came under mortar fire which was returned by the security forces. In the battle, several LTTE terrorists were killed and many injured. No incidents have been reported from Mannar during this period.

In the Eastern Province, in Tandiadi, five terrorists were killed by the STF [Special Task Force]. In Pottuvil town, it has been reported that civilian life has returned to normal and that the Lahugala-Pottuvil road is now cleared for vehicular traffic. In Akkaraipattu, the police station has been re-established. In Batticaloa, where the consolidation process has commenced, troops proceeding from the north via Kiran and Eravur have now converged on Batticaloa town. From the south, columns are moving out from the Kalawanchikudy area and Batticaloa would be completely secured shortly.

Meanwhile, the commissioner general of essential services has taken immediate steps to make available essential supplies to the people, moving stocks from Amparai and Habarana. Many civilians have now moved back to their homes in Trincomalee. The commissioner general of essential services is taking action to establish a joint council of nongovernmental organizations to obtain the participation of NCO's [non commissioned officers] in providing urgent medical attention and relief to refugees. The nongovernmental organizations willing to participate in this week are requested to put immediately getting touch with Mr. Charita Ratwate, commissioner general of essential services [sentence as heard].

LTTE Says Napalm Used

BK2606091390 *Delhi Domestic Service in English*
0830 GMT 26 Jun 90

[Text] The LTTE has accused the Sri Lankan security forces of causing widespread civilian casualties because of aerial bombing in the northern Jaffna town today. In a statement received from London, the LTTE said the Air Force jets and the helicopter gunships continued to bomb their positions around the Jaffna Fort, destroying several houses, shops, and a women's college. The militant group has also charged the Air Force with dropping napalm bombs in a bid to end the LTTE siege of the Jaffna Fort, in which about 260 soldiers and policemen have been trapped since the 11th of this month. The statement added that the residents have begun fleeing from their houses in the Jaffna peninsula following air attacks and bombardments from naval ships.

Meanwhile, military sources claim that the security forces trapped inside the fort have begun moving out, following heavy bombings by the Air Force. The defense secretary said that the security forces are trying their best to avoid civilian casualties.